

Take Action with CBAN :

Join us to:

- o Stop the introduction of Monsanto's GE Alfalfa, GE Wheat, and "SmartStax" corn.
- o Stop the introduction of the GM "Enviropig™"
- o Provide consumers with reliable information about GM foods.
- o Ban Terminator Technology in Canada.
- o Fight corporate control over seeds and protect organic farming.

www.cban.ca

For the latest action and news
and to subscribe to the
CBAN News and Action Listserve

Donate Today!



CBAN: Canada's campaigner on GE

CBAN's Mission:

To promote food sovereignty and democratic decision-making on science and technology issues in order to protect the integrity of the environment, health, food, and the livelihoods of people in Canada and around the world by facilitating, informing and organizing civil society action, researching, and providing information to government for policy development.

To achieve this, CBAN works to:

- Facilitate collaborative campaigning at the local, regional, national and international levels
- Enable individual Canadians to take strategic and effective action
- Research and monitor new technologies and provide credible information
- Challenge government to transparency, accountability and democratic process

CBAN Members are:

ACT for the Earth (Toronto), Biofreedom (Edmonton), Canadian Organic Growers, Check Your Head, Coalition for Safe Food (B.C.), Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario, Food Action Committee of Ecology Action Centre, Halifax, GE Free Yukon, GeneAction (Toronto), Greenpeace Canada, Inter Pares, National Farmers Union, P.E.I. Coalition for a GMO-Free Province, Saskatchewan Organic Directorate, Society for a G.E. Free B.C., Union Paysanne, USC Canada

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Your chance to make concrete change!

June-October 2010

www.cban.ca/474action

Bill C-474 is Concrete Action!

Bill C-474 would support Canadian farmers by requiring that "an analysis of potential harm to export markets be conducted before the sale of any new genetically engineered seed is permitted."

Its a Private Members Bill that MPs voted for on April 14, after thousands of your letters!

It will be debated and studied in the House of Commons Agriculture Committee in Sept/Oct 2010 before A FINAL VOTE in Parliament!

The Bill was introduced by Alex Atamanenko, the NDP Agriculture Critic and MP for British Columbia Southern Interior.

Bill C-474 would stop Monsanto's GE seeds!

This Bill is a critical opportunity to stop dangerous GE crops. It is the first real debate about the impacts of GE crops.

The government only assesses the science of a GE crop and has no mechanism to address the potential market harm for farmers. We know, for example, that 82% of Canada's wheat customers across the world would stop buying our wheat if we commercialized Monsanto's GE wheat. Even the threat of contamination would close our markets.

Farmers are at risk when GE crops are commercialized without also being approved in our major export markets.

Bill C-474 would stop GE wheat and GE alfalfa.



Farmers Lost Export Markets Due to GE Flax Contamination:

Farmers are at risk when GE crops are commercialized in Canada without also being approved in our major export markets:

Flax farmers in Canada are now paying a heavy price because of this exact problem.

Late last year, Canadian flax exports were discovered contaminated with a GE flax that is not approved in Europe or in any of our other export markets (except the U.S.).

Flax farmers actually foresaw that GE contamination or even the threat of contamination would close their export markets. That's why they took steps in 2001 to remove GE flax from the market. Despite this measure, flax farmers were not protected. The GE flax contamination closed our export markets in 2009. It has created market uncertainty and depressed prices. Farmers are also paying for testing and cleanup and may be required to abandon their own farm-saved flax seed and buy certified seed instead.

These costs are an unnecessary and preventable burden. This is an unprecedented crisis for farmers in Canada. It shows how hard it is to stop GE contamination, and the terrible economic impact.

GE Alfalfa Threatens Farmers:

The contamination of organic alfalfa with GE alfalfa would severely impact the entire organic food and farming system in the U.S. and Canada - especially because many different types of organic farmers plant alfalfa to improve soil fertility. Alfalfa is also important food for organic dairy cows and livestock.

We only have one chance to stop contamination.

Write Your MP Today!

**You can send a letter instantly at:
www.cban.ca/474action**

- or check for other actions

Or use this sample letter:

As your constituent, I am writing to ask you to vote in support of Private Members Bill C-474.

The Bill would support farmers by requiring that "an analysis of potential harm to export markets be conducted before the sale of any new genetically engineered seed is permitted."

This Bill is really important because, as we know from experience, the introduction of new genetically engineered (GE) crops can cause economic hardship to farmers.

Farmers are at risk when GE crops are commercialized in Canada without also being first approved in our major export markets.

Flax farmers in Canada are now paying the price for this exact problem. Canadian flax exports were discovered contaminated with a GE flax that is not approved in Europe or any of our other export markets. The contamination has created market uncertainty and depressed prices. Farmers are also paying for testing and cleanup and may be required to abandon their own farm-saved flax seed and buy certified seed instead. These costs are an unnecessary and preventable burden.

We cannot allow our export markets close like this again. It is the government's responsibility to protect our farmers from predictable problems caused by the introduction of new GE crops.

Please support Bill C-474 and protect Canada's farmers and our markets.