

Agrofuels

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Sharratt<info@cban.ca><aname="eztoc577_1" id="eztoc577_1"><h2>Stop the Biofuels Regulations in Canada!</h2><p>August 2010: All our fuel could soon contain a required level of biofuels if the new Renewable Fuels Regulations go ahead. But Environment Canada doesn't even know what the ecological footprint will be! This secret study has just been found through Access to Information. The regulations are going ahead unless the Minister of the Environment decides otherwise...</p><p> Click here to send an instant email to the Minister of the Environment to ask for more study first!</p>Read Biofuels Backfire: hasty approach will impact environment, food production from Common Ground magazine, July 2010 by Lucy SharrattRead the government's own regulatory impact statement Development & Peace says the regulations "make no sense whatsoever".<aname="eztoc577_2" id="eztoc577_2"><h2>Summary</h2><p>The highly controversial Bill C-

33, An Act to amend the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, was passed in June 2008 in the midst of the new food crisis. The Bill allows the federal government to develop and implement regulations requiring 5% average renewable content in gasoline by 2010 as well as require 2% average renewable content in diesel and heating oil by 2012.<p>The Canadian government is now rushing in these "Renewable Fuels Regulations" to require biofuels in our gas but there are new reports all the time about serious environmental and economic problems with biofuels - including a study on the ecological footprint of Canada's biofuels industry commissioned by Environment Canada that is not yet released!<p><aname="eztoc577_3" id="eztoc577_3"><h2>What's Wrong with Biofuels Regulations in Canada?</h2><p>The federal government is hiding a new report on the ecological footprint of Canada's biofuels industry, before the regulation gets passed. Earlier this year Environment Canada awarded a contract to conduct an environmental assessment and baseline of Canada's biofuel industry. Wouldn't it make sense to wait until after the report is completed before adopting the regulations?<p><p>There are many new studies and the verdict on biofuels is not looking good:<p>The promised economic benefit to farmers will not be seen. The government's own regulatory impact statement now reveals that farmers will not benefit from the production of grains used to make the biofuels. The statement says more corn will be imported from the US to meet the biofuels regulation in eastern Canada!The impact statement also shows that consumers will bear most of the costs associated with the biofuel expansion - a total of \$2 billion. This is because the ethanol-blended gas has a lower energy content so consumers will need to buy more fuel! The statement also says: ? Assuming all industry costs are passed onto the consumer, regional average cost over 25 years range from 7 cents in Ontario to a relatively higher impact of 30 cents in Quebec and the Atlantic provinces?.They promise that air quality would get better and thus improve the health of Canadians as well as didn't pan out as a recent 2009 Health Canada report concluded that ? there are no substantial differences in predicted health effects between use of conventional use (gasoline) and E10 (ethanol-blended gasoline). ?The Federal Government still says the new biofuels mandate will be good for the environment, even though their own research indicates no statistical difference in Greenhouse Gas Emissions at the tail pipe between vehicles using ethanol and vehicles not using ethanol.<p>When the Senate passed Bill C-

33, it also suggested that, ? any new information that is available prior to regulations being proposed is taken into consideration before such regulations are promulgated. ? See here for details on what the Senate said.<p><p> Click here to download a background document from Food Secure Canada.<p><p>Sow why is Canada still implementing a costly biofuel mandate that will subsidize Suncor Energy

,GreenfieldsEthanolandHuskyOil?</p><aname="eztoc577_4" id="eztoc577_4"><h2>TakeAction</h2>Click hereto write an instant letter to the Minister of the Environment.You can also write to the members of the House of Commons Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development to request that the regulations be halted and brought back to Committee for further study.<p>Bob Mills:mills.b@parl.gc.ca
Bernard Bigras:bigras.b@parl.gc.ca
Geoff Regan:regan.g@parl.gc.ca
Mike Allen:allen.m@parl.gc.ca
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Mark Warawa:warawa.m@parl.gc.ca</p><p>To see details about these MPs, check http://www.parl.gc.ca</p><aname="eztoc577_5" id="eztoc577_5"><h2>Global Conflict Over Agrofuels</h2><p>The her corporate "agrofuels" gold-rush has ignited a major global conflict. Find out why...</p><div class="object-right"><div class="content-view-embedded-media"><div class="class-image"><div class="attribute-image"><p></p></div></div></div></div><p>Click here to hear Pat Mooney on biofuels</p><p><i>At the World Forum on Food Sovereignty, held in Mali in Africa, we and other delegates discussed how capital has manipulated terminology by adding the prefix ?bio?, which signifies life, to renewable plant-based fuels. This is ridiculous, because all living things are ?bio?. We could call ourselves bio-people, bio-John Smith, bio-soya, etc. Companies use the prefix ?bio? to encourage the public to see their products as a good thing, as politically correct. So, at the international level, Via Campesina has agreed to use more accurate terminology. These fuels and energy are produced from agricultural crops and so the correct terms are agrofuels and agro-energy.</i></p><p>João Pedro Stedile is one of the leaders of the Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra (MST), Brazil's Landless Movement</p><p>Click here to read how agrofuels is pushing destructive GMO monocropping in Latin America.</p><aname="eztoc577_5_1" id="eztoc577_5_1"><h3>Agrofuels and GE Trees</h3><p>Biotechnology corporations are seriously promotinggenetically engineered trees and new GE crops for use as biofuels (agrofuels). The Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO)Pacific Rim Summit on Industrial Biotechnology and Bioenergy September 10-12, 2008 Vancouver, British Columbia was all about genetic engineering and new technologies for biofuels including, and explicitly, GE trees. The conference included the session ?Cellulosic Ethanol from Softwoods Around the World? and the presentation ?Biotechnology in Purpose-Grown Trees to Make Bioenergy Production? by ArborGen, the leading company researching GE trees.</p><p>This link with agrofuels was a major reason why the bid by African governments to establish an international moratorium on GE tree plantings was defeated at the United Nations in 2008.</p><div class="object-right"><div class="content-view-embedded-media"><div class="class-image"><div class="attribute-image"><p></p></div></div></div></div><p></p><p>Fast growing, purpose-grown trees are an ideal feedstock platform for second generation bioenergy production? Producing renewable energy from purpose-grown trees is the latest step in the evolution of trees? long and fruitful history and critical to meeting global bioenergy development needs.</p><p>from summary to BIO Conference presentation "Biotechnology in Purpose-Grown Trees to Make Bioenergy Production" in the session "New Feedstocks for Biofuels" and</p><p>presentation from Barbara Wells of ArborGen.</p><p><a href="/Resources/Topics/GE-

Trees"target="_self">Click here for more information on GE trees.</p><h3>Reports and Articles</h3><p>Backgrounder from Food Secure Canada, 4 pages.</p><p>Click here to read The Food Crisis and How to Beat It short opinion piece from the Food Security Policy Group and Food Secure Canada, May 25, 2008</p><p>The Dark Side of Brazil's Agribusiness Boom: Violence, Mutiny and Environmental Pillage in the Amazon, Center for the Study of the Americas, October 2008</p><p>Feeding the World with GM Crops: Myth or Reality? (8 page pdf) by GM Freeze, UK, June 2008</p><p>The global food crisis is being used by some to call for more widespread introduction of GM crops.</p><p>Via Campesina Position Paper-Small Farmers Feed the World: Industrial agrofuels fuel hunger and poverty, June 24, 2008</p><p>Food Sovereignty is the answer to the world food and energy crisis, Via Campesina, speech, May 29, 2008</p><p>Biofuels By Decree: Report from Burma, May-Burma? smilitary is implementing a nationwide plant to plant eight million acres, an area the size of Belgium, with Jatropha curcas for biodiesel production. Two years into the campaign, the people of Burma have suffered forced labor, confiscation of farmlands, and a threat to food security. At the same time, testimonies of crop failure and mismanagement expose how the campaign is a fiasco.</p>One page factsheetPress release: Biofuels Fiasco in BurmaFull report<p>"Genetically Engineered Trees, Cellulosic Biofuels & Destruction of Forest Biological Diversity" Global Forest Coalition, Global Justice Ecology Project, February 2008</p><p>"The real costs of agrofuels: Food, forest and the climate" (72 page pdf) Global Forest Coalition, December 2007</p><p>Small scale sustainable farms are cooling down the Earth, Via Campesina, November 2007</p><p>For monitoring and reports including Seedlings special issue July 2007 www.grain.org/agrofuels/</p><p>Executive Summary</p>Full Report (pdf 34 pages)</p><p>Miguel Altieri and Elisabeth Bravo, ?The ecological and social tragedy of crop-based biofuel production in the Americas? April 2007</p><p>Agrofuels in Africa: the impact on land, food and forests, African Biodiversity Network, July 2007.</p><p>P.E.I Biofuels Plant Under Fire at Agriculture Committee Hearing: Plant would create new market for Monsanto's genetically engineered sugar beet</p><h3>More Resources</h3><p>Biofuelwatch, Europe</p>GRAIN Agrofuels resource page</p></div>

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