

GE Crops: Parliament to debate the need for export market acceptance before commercial release

Author: Lucy Sharratt<info@cban.ca><p>Ottawa, Tuesday, March 16, 2010-

Tomorrow, Parliament will debate Private Members Bill C-

474 to require that an analysis of potential harm to export markets be conducted before the sale of any new

genetically engineered seed is permitted. </p><p></p><p>The Bill is necessary to protect farmers from

economic harm caused by the release of GE seeds that are not approved in our export markets, </p><p></p><p>

The Bill was introduced by Alex Atamanenko, NDP Agriculture Critic and MP for British Columbia South

ern Interior. It will be debated on Wed. March 17 at 5:30 PM and if it passes this </p><p></p><p>

second reading </p><p></p><p>As we see with the current flax contamination crisis, GE crops can shut down our export markets, </p><p></p><p>

Wishful thinking about future approvals of GE

crops in other countries or an end to zero-

tolerance for contamination in Europe is not going to change the current reality in our export markets. There is

an unceasing controversy over GE crops in countries that represent valuable export markets for Canadian

crops. </p><p></p><p>The Bill finally begins a real debate over the negative economic impacts of GE

crops and the threat GE poses to Canada's agriculture sector into the future, </p><p></p><p>

said Devlin Kuyek, also with CBA

N, </p><p></p><p>

Bill C-

474 would fill a gaping hole in Canada's regulation that would allow GE alfalfa or GE wheat onto the market

despite the economic devastation such crops would cause. </p><p></p><p>

GE contamination is already

costing the taxpayer, </p><p></p><p>The fact that the Harper Government recently pledged up to \$1.9 million

to help companies pay for testing flax seed evidence that GE contamination can cost the Canadian gov-

ernment </p><p></p><p>and this is without the government compensating farmers for their testing costs or market loss. Con-

tamination is inevitable and these costs will keep reoccurring. </p><p></p><p>

We cannot allow our ex-

port markets to be damaged like this again, </p><p></p><p>

said Terry Boehm, President of the National Farmers Union and

an alfalfa farmer, </p><p></p><p>It's the government's responsibility to protect Canadian farmers from predictable trade pro-

blems caused by the introduction of new GE crops that have not yet been regulated in our export markets. </p><p></p><p>

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