

Biofuels Bill: Senate Committee Observations

Author: Lucy Sharratt<info@cban.ca><p>BillC-33 was approved by the Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources and later passed by a vote in the Senate. The Senate Committee attached the following "observations" to the Bill.</p><p>That the Government of Canada should exercise due diligence and perform a cost-benefit analysis before proposing any regulations arising from this bill to ensure that:
(a) Canada's tax dollars are being prudently used to produce a significant result in reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
(b) The industry is able to process and mix the fuels as required by law;
(c) Canadian producers, the farmers, can meet the demand and farmers' income is improved;
(d) Human health will not be compromised in any way by this bill; and
(e) Any new information that is available prior to regulations being proposed is taken into consideration before such regulations are promulgated.</p><p>Unfortunately these observations do not note the need to ensure that global food security is not compromised.</p><p>The majority of witnesses before the Senate Committee opposed BillC-33 and asked hearings to be extended into the Fall. Witnesses in front of the Committee included the Minister of Agriculture, the Canadian Renewable Fuels Association with other industry representatives, Pat Mooney from ETC Group, Colleen Ross from the National Farmers Union, Ian London from Beyond Factory Farming and Mark Fried from Oxfam Canada - the day that Oxfam International released their report"Another Inconvenient Truth: How biofuels policies are deepening poverty and accelerating climate change."<p>Click here to read the joint press release asking the Senate to delay.<p>Click here to see transcripts of the Senate hearings when they are available.<p>Click here to see the briefing on BillC-33 from Beyond Factory Farming</p>