



House of Commons
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

April 7, 2010

Bill C-474

Dear Mr. Brian Jean, M.P.,

The Alberta Barley Commission, representing over 17,000 successful farmers, is asking you to defeat Bill C-474 at second reading. This legislation would put Canadian farmers at an economic disadvantage vis-à-vis our US and South American competitors going forward by discouraging future investment in research and innovation here in Canada.

The reality is that new plant technologies have tremendous benefits, both for the farmers and the cities they feed in Canada and across the world.

Here are some key points we would like you to consider when voting on this bill:

1. These seeds are more environmentally sustainable than regular seeds. They require far fewer pesticides to control insects and diseases and therefore benefit the environment, and in addition they greatly reduce our use of fossil fuels to produce our crops helping to mitigate climate change concerns.
2. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization is predicting the world will need to increase agricultural production by 70 per cent by 2050. Farmers feed cities, and as long as our cities and populations are growing, our farmers will need to use the best technology available to keep up with demand in Canada, with our trading partners around the world and in some cases to help feed those less fortunate.
3. Canola has become one of the most successful crops in Canadian history, thanks to the use of new plant technologies. If this bill had been in place when advances in plant technologies were introduced, Canola as a crop would not exist as it is today, a source of heart healthy oil and nutritious animal feed.
4. New plant technologies undergo years of rigorous government scrutiny and testing before they are approved by Canadian regulators and made available to farmers. The current approach is based on sound science, whereas this Bill and many criticisms of new plant technologies are based on fear and innuendo based allegations by outside organizations with other agendas.

New plant technologies have tremendous environmental, economic and health benefits, and will help to meet rising demands for food in our country, our cities and across the world.

We hope you will recognize the importance of new traits to Canadian farm families and vote to defeat Bill C-474.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Leslie". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mike Leslie
CEO

