

**We stand for stewardship and innovation**

representing Canada's plant science industry

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**Re: Bill C-474 puts farmers first in debate about modified foods, Oliver Chronicle, Jan 12, 2011**

It appears that the Oliver Chronicle forgot the saying that there are two sides to every story when it ran the recent article on Bill C-474. To help your readers get a better sense of the other side of this issue, I'd like to present some facts that were absent in that article.

Farmers choose to grow GM crops because they offer meaningful benefits such as increased yields, improved nutritional value and environmentally sustainable production methods. This, in turn, leads to significant economic impacts, which according to a recent study result in \$7.9 billion worth of additional economic benefit for farmers each year with the help of crop protection products and plant biotechnology.

GM crops – which have been thoroughly tested over the course of the last two decades - are subject to Canada's strict regulatory standards which ensure that not only do Canadians have access to one of the safest food supplies in the world, but that our farmers are also well-positioned to participate in foreign trade.





The fact of the matter is Bill C-474 is based on nothing more than an ideological opposition to advancements in plant biotechnology and it has no basis in science.

But don't take our word for it. Ask the overwhelming number of farm groups – including the Grain Growers of Canada, the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association, the Canadian Seed Trade Association, the Canola Council of Canada and the Canadian Canola Growers Association among others – why they support Canada's science-based regulatory system as a means for ensuring that Canadian farmers continue to benefit from access to the latest biotechnology tools in order to remain competitive on the global stage while protecting human health and the environment.

Sincerely,

Lorne Hepworth  
President, CropLife Canada - *representing the plant science industry*

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