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Clerk of the Board@ARB

From: Gabrielle Shaw [lam.galadh@gmail.com]
To: Clerk of the Board@ARB; ARB (webmaster)

Sent: Wed 4/22/2009 2:17 PM

Cc:

Subject: Biofuel from corn ethanol is not renewable, does not address climate change

Attachments:

Dear California Air Resources Board,

This global protest urges you to declare that biofuel from corn ethanol cannot help California address climate change. Increased land pressures from industrial agriculture necessary to produce corn ethanol clearly leads to numerous indirect land use changes elsewhere, causing the destruction of soil and forest carbon sinks. This self evident fact clearly disqualifies corn ethanol biofuel from counting as emissions reduction.

Securing world food security while maintaining operable global ecosystems may be one of the biggest challenges humanity faces in this century. Intensifying current industrial agriculture practices for vast toxic biofuel monocultures will lead to ecological disaster. Please heed the overwhelming evidence that agrofuels worsen climate change through further deforestation and the destruction of other ecosystems, drive food prices up, force more and more people worldwide into hunger and malnutrition, and decimate biodiversity and ecosystems.

Corn ethanol receives billions in subsidies despite conclusive science indicating its inefficient production provides little or no additional energy other than what is used for its production, and its ecological destructiveness in terms of land, water and climate. Indeed, US agrofuel policies are already a major cause of Amazon deforestation, as US farmers switching from soya to corn is boosting soya expansion in Brazil and other South American countries.

So called "next generation" advanced fuels from non-food plants and plant parts, including forest biomass, will not resolve these problems. All industrially produced biofuel crops from fresh biomass, edible or not, still require land, soil, water, fertilizer and other finite inputs. All biofuels based upon further expansion of unsustainable, industrial agriculture policies will intensify deforestation, toxic pollution, land conflicts with local peoples and dependence upon fossil fuel based fertilizers worldwide. It is clear that industrial biofuels are not "renewable energy" given that soils, water, land and fertilizers are all in limited supply.

I am concerned with America and California's growing ethanol industry, and the implications it has in setting a precedent for massive agricultural industrialization of the world's remaining rainforests and other natural wildlands. We concur with the growing ecological consensus that large-scale industrial production of transport fuels and other energy from plants such as corn, sugar cane, oil palm, soya, trees, grasses, or so-called agricultural and woodland waste; threatens forests, biodiversity, food sovereignty, community-based land rights and will worsen climate change.

Earth simply cannot produce the vast quantities of biomass necessary to prolong our unsustainable lifestyles. Continuing to intensify industrial agriculture through increased agrofuel and biomass energy will doom humans, who are no longer integrated with ecosystems, to extinction by exhausting stocks of minerals, soils and clean water. By mining global ecosystems for biomass, the time scale of human extinction is shrinking with every crop harvest.

Instead, we ask you to support investment in truly clean energy technologies such as wind, solar and geothermal energy that do not involve any form of combustion. We must pursue truly clean, renewable and "zero waste" technologies immediately. And you must dramatically increase the attention given to energy efficiency and conservation. Continued human habitat, adequate to allow California and all global citizens to continue living well within the Earth's ecosystems, requires CARB to now disavow corn ethanol as a global warming strategy.

Sincerely,

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