

A enregistrer, svp

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 6:24 PM

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Subject: Update on scientists and economists letter on land use and biofuels

Dear Commissioner,

I know that some important decisions on biofuels are pending, and I wanted to update you on the status of the "International Scientists and Economists Statement on Biofuels and Land Use." First of all, since we sent the statement last October, more than 40 additional scientists and economists have joined the attached statement, for a total of 210 experts who recommend that EU policies recognize and account for indirect land use change as a part of the lifecycle analyses of greenhouse gas emissions from biofuels.

The other important development is that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) has recently released an analysis on lifecycle emissions from palm oil based biofuels. Their preliminary findings were that palm oil based biofuels failed to meet even the lowest standards for renewable fuels under US law, which require a 20% reduction in lifecycle greenhouse gasses compared to fossil fuel alternatives. The regulatory proposal US EPA developed includes a detailed analysis of the indirect land use emissions associated with palm oil expansion, which concludes that more than half the emissions from palm oil biodiesel derive from land use change. Because palm oil is the fast growing and least expensive oil on the world agricultural markets, these results have implications for all vegetable oil or animal fat based fuels.

The scientific case is clear and getting stronger all the time. The environmental assessment of biofuels must include the impact on land use change mediated through global agricultural markets. I hope the European Union will join the US EPA and the California Air Resources Board in recognizing this and moving ahead with science based policies that encourage development of sustainable, low-carbon fuels and avoid conflict with food production and minimize harmful environmental impacts.

Respectfully,

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