

*2011-03-12 – Comment – Agriculture – Bill C-474*

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When Bill C-474 was first proposed, the Liberal Party supported a full examination of the Bill to better evaluate the possible outcomes and consequences. Following this examination, it was clear that the Bill did not address significant, sometimes unintended, negative consequences to our agricultural export markets and to a large part of our domestic agricultural sector. I note that among farm groups, some supported the Bill, but that the vast majority of farmers (especially in the West) were against it.

Legitimate concerns have, however, been raised, and I am pleased to report that the Agriculture Committee of the House of Commons is currently conducting an examination of agricultural biotechnology to address some of those concerns.

I personally support using a thorough fact-based, science-based system for regulating genetically modified products, combined with more thorough labelling requirements so that consumers can make their own, but informed, decisions on what to consume.