



Renewable Fuels Bill Clears the Way for Renewable Fuel Content

OTTAWA, Dec. 3 /CNW Telbec/ - The Renewable Fuels Bill was introduced in Parliament today by the Honourable John Baird Minister of the Environment, on behalf of the Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board. The Bill would allow the Government of Canada to regulate renewable content in fuels.

"Our Government believes that green technologies and Canadian innovation is a key part of the fight against climate change," said Minister Baird. "As Canada joins the world over the next two weeks at the United Nations Conference on Climate Change, I look forward to holding up this piece of legislation as proof of the real action we are taking here at home to promote biofuels and Canada as a clean energy superpower."

"Our Government understands the desire of Canadians' to do their part to deal with climate change, and we know increasing the renewable content in our fuel is going to put a real dent in greenhouse gas emissions," said Minister Ritz. "Renewable fuels also have the potential to create new markets and economic incentives for Canadian farmers- that is why we have made biofuels development such a high priority."

An amended Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 would allow the Government to implement regulations which will require five per cent average renewable content in gasoline by 2010. Subsequent regulations will also require two per cent average renewable content in diesel and heating oil by 2012 upon successful demonstration of renewable diesel fuel use under the range of Canadian environmental conditions.

These regulations will reduce greenhouse emissions by about 4 megatonnes per year, the equivalent of taking approximately one million vehicles off the road. These changes were originally proposed in the Clean Air Act, and the introduction of this Bill fulfills another commitment made in the Speech from the Throne.

As part of its comprehensive approach to addressing the environmental challenges facing Canada and the world, the Government of Canada has invested \$3.6 billion in ecoENERGY Initiatives to help Canadians use energy more efficiently, boost renewable energy supplies and develop cleaner energy technologies.

(Egalement offert en français)

For further information: Gary Keller, Director of Communications, Office of the Minister of the Environment, (819) 997-1441; Environment Canada Media Relations, (819) 934-8008, 1-888-908-8008, www.gc.ca