



July 26, 2011

To: FarmTech Energy Corporation
Environmental Assessment
c/o ecoAgriculture Biofuels Capital Initiative
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
1341 Baseline Road, Tower 7, 7th Floor
Ottawa, ON K1A 0C5

c/o The City of Oshawa
Mayor's Office
50 Centre St. S.
Oshawa, ON L1H 3Z7
fax: 905-436-3884
email: harbour@oshawa.ca

RE: Ethanol Plant at the Oshawa Harbour

I am the Chairperson of the Council of Canadians, a national public advocacy organization advocating for social and environmental justice with thousands of members and dozens of activist chapters across the country. I am writing to you to express the concerns the Council of Canadians has regarding FarmTech Energy Corporation's proposed construction and operation of a 210-million litre ethanol fuel production facility located at the Oshawa Harbour and adjacent to the Second Marsh Wildlife Area (registry reference number 08-01-42395).

The Council of Canadians is committed to a just and sustainable model of development that protects the land, air and water of our communities to the best of our collective ability. Although we support renewable energy, we echo the following concerns of the community:

- The proposed ethanol plant would be located on a historic and prominent height of land overlooking Lake Ontario.
- The proposed ethanol plant would be located adjacent to the Second Marsh, a Provincially Significant Wetland and Area of Natural and Scientific Interest that is home to a rich diversity of wildlife species.
- The proposed ethanol plant would be adjacent to the heavily used Oshawa portion of the Waterfront Trail that stretches 900 km through 41 communities from Niagara-on-the-Lake to the Quebec border.
- The proposed ethanol plant is moving forward in the absence of a comprehensive Land Use Plan / Business Plan to be created by the Canada Port Authority.
- There is a lack of effective, accessible and recent public consultation.

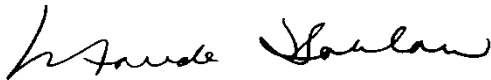
- The Oshawa community has resoundingly rejected the idea of an ethanol plant at the Oshawa Harbour.

In my recent report, *Our Great Lakes Commons: A Peoples Plan To Protect the Great Lakes Forever*, I outline the need to designate the Great Lakes a Commons, Public Trust and Protected Bioregion. The notion of the Commons is a very old one. The Commons approach is based on the belief that just by being members of the human family, we all have rights to certain common heritages, be they the atmosphere and oceans, freshwater and genetic diversity, or culture, language and wisdom. A Great Lakes Basin Commons would reject the view that the primary function of the Great Lakes is to promote the interests of industry and the powerful and give them preferential access to the Lakes' bounties. It would embrace the belief that the Great Lakes form an integrated ecosystem with resources that are to be equitably shared and carefully managed for the good of the whole community.

Several aspects of the proposed ethanol plant contradict the notion of the Great Lakes Commons including the importance of public participation and a program for wetlands protection.

For these reasons, we urge greater public consultation with the community on the construction and operation of an ethanol plant at the Oshawa Harbour. I also urge the Federal Government to withdraw any consent and withhold any further consideration to establish an ethanol plant on Crown land at the Oshawa Harbour until the concerns of the community are adequately considered.

Yours sincerely,



Maude Barlow
National Chairperson
Council of Canadians

cc:

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada
The Honourable Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance
The Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
The Honourable Denis Lebel, Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Communities
The Honourable Peter Kent, Minister of the Environment
MP Dr. Colin Carrie
MPP Jerry J. Ouellette, Critic, Natural Resources
Mr. Roger Anderson, Durham Region Chair