

DR. CAROLINE LUCAS  
Green Party

for the South East of England

The Rt Hon Elliot Morley MP  
Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs  
Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London  
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March 9<sup>th</sup> 2006

Dear Mr Morley,

I am writing to you ahead of the 8<sup>th</sup> UN Convention on Biological Diversity, which takes place later this month in Brazil. You will be aware that countries such as the US and Canada, under immense pressure from the biotech industry, intend to renew their efforts to commercialise Terminator technology and I am urging the UK government to strongly resist such moves.

The current international moratorium on Genetic Use Restriction Technology (GURTS) protects rural communities, many of them home to the poorest peoples of the world, from the catastrophic consequences of being unable to save and reuse seed from year to year. GURTS is a direct attack on food sovereignty and on the traditional knowledge, practices and the cultural life-ways of Indigenous peoples and rural communities. The potential long-term negative environmental impacts of Terminator must be considered, and industry's argument that the technology could help in preventing wide spread GMO contamination must be rejected. GURTS brings with it a whole new range of biosafety hazard possibilities and industry should not be allowed to develop it for commercial use. Both Brazil and India have national legislation in place that prohibits the use, testing or development of GURTS technology and I am calling on the UK to adopt a similar approach.

Please give this issue the attention it deserves by ensuring that the UK advocates a continuation of the de facto moratorium on Terminator. I would also ask that the government bring pressure to bear on the US, where Monsanto, Syngenta and Delta and Pine Land are currently testing Terminator in greenhouses, against the wishes of civil society groups worldwide.

I look forward to hearing how you will defend the precautionary approach implicit in the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity's decision of 2000 about Terminator.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP for South East England.

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