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## **BEVINGTON CONTINUES FIGHT AGAINST HARPER BIO-FUEL BILL**

**OTTAWA** – Western Arctic MP Dennis Bevington continues to play an important role in the debate surrounding Bill C-33 Bio-fuels.

“I brought forward the amendment which started the debate as to whether the Harper plan for bio-fuels is the correct plan,” said Bevington. “There are ways of doing bio-fuels correctly, for example in the North, the burning of pellets made from waste wood for heat are cost-effective replacements for conventional oil-fired furnaces. Burning these pellets to heat large buildings are just one example of good bio-fuel or bio-energy technology, there are many others.”

Prior to the amendment, the bill had proceeded through second reading and the Agriculture and Agri-Food Committee. Bevington put forward a report stage amendment to the bill which would have increased the accountability of the government on how bio-fuels will be developed and a subsequent motion to have the bill returned to the Agriculture and Agri-Food committee for further study.

The Liberals joined with the Conservatives to defeat the first motion by Bevington, debate continues on the second.

“It is becoming clear that if done incorrectly bio-fuels can have major negative impacts,” said Bevington. “We need to re-think our approach and place restrictions upon the development of bio-fuels to avoid the problems being experienced in other parts of the world. We won’t give Stephen Harper a blank cheque on bio-fuels, we need to ensure it is done correctly”

Conditions that need to be addressed in the legislation include prioritizing bio-fuels with good life-cycle CO2 Emissions, protecting existing land used for food production, reducing pesticide and fertilizer use, and applying parity in incentives to the wide range of bio-energy opportunities in Canada.

Bevington is hoping the other parties will vote in favour of his motion to have the bill sent back to committee for further review.

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