

House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear

I am writing to express my concerns with the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, also known as CETA, presently being negotiated, behind closed doors, by the Canadian government and the European Union. Both the Canadian government and the EU refuse to disclose their draft texts of the agreement. I am a farmer and a Canadian citizen, therefore, I have the right to know how this trade agreement will affect farm families, rural communities and our democracy.

The National Farmers Union has obtained leaked copies of the text. The NFU has concluded that, if adopted as drafted, CETA will:

- severely restrict farmers' ability to save, reuse, exchange and sell seed by expanding intellectual property rights enforcement tools, including the precautionary seizure of farms, crops, equipment and cash for alleged infringement;
- undermine federal, provincial, municipal, hospital, school and university local purchasing policies, including local food procurement policies, by forbidding governments and government entities from favouring local or domestic businesses;
- increase corporate patent rights for drugs and chemicals.

As presently written, Canadian farmers have nothing to gain and plenty to lose from CETA. Proponents of the agreement have suggested it will open up the European market to Canada's genetically-modified (GM) crops and hormone-treated beef. This assertion is false. Canadian negotiators are pushing for EU GM contamination levels to increase from 0.01% to 0.1% but the draft text specifically exempts GM organisms. The European market is closed to hormone-treated beef due to consumer health concerns and a trade agreement will not change their opinions.

This trade agreement is good for corporations but bad for Canadians. As a farmer who will be affected by CETA, I have not been consulted, nor have the vast majority of Canadian farmers and citizens. Canadians must be involved in deciding whether or not this trade agreement is good for family farms, the citizens of Canada and our democracy.

Can you either provide me with a copy of the most recent draft of the agreement or let me know where I can access a copy of the draft agreement? All Canadians must be consulted before this trade agreement is concluded.

Yours sincerely,

cc. Right Hon. Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada
Hon. Ed Fast, Minister of International Trade
Hon. Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture
Nycole Turmel, Interim Leader of the Opposition
Peter Julian, NDP International Trade Critic
Malcom Allen, NDP Agriculture Critic
Hon. Bob Rae, Leader of the Liberal Party
Hon. Wayne Easter, Liberal International Trade Critic
Frank Valeriote, Liberal Agriculture Critic