



Elizabeth May  
Leader of the Green Party of Canada



Maude Barlow  
National Chairperson, Council of Canadians

Winfried Kretschmann, Ministerpräsident,  
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70184 Stuttgart GERMANY  
By email: [winfried.kretschmann@gruene.landtag-bw.de](mailto:winfried.kretschmann@gruene.landtag-bw.de)

April 12, 2016

Dear Winfried Kretschmann,

We are two Canadians who, like you, care deeply about the environment. We are Elizabeth May, leader of the Green Party of Canada, and Maude Barlow, national chairperson of the Council of Canadians, Canada's largest citizens' social action group. We have been impressed by your voice in publicly opposing the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between the European Union and Canada.

This is why we are writing you to reiterate the dangers of CETA. We understand that you have a crucial role to play in the Bundesrat since each of the Länder, including those in which Greens share power, can abstain or vote no to the agreement.

You hold great power over CETA's future. We urge you to use this power now. By declaring that the Länder where Greens are in government are not going to vote for CETA once it comes to ratification, you can exert maximum pressure upon the European Commission to stop the ratification process. Once the ratification process is more advanced, resisting it may be more difficult.

Greenpeace has revealed threats to the environment and to consumer protection under the TTIP framework. Concerns over TTIP should not be allowed to obscure the dangers inherent in CETA. Through CETA, Europeans would get caught in TTIP through the back door. Canada's economy is highly integrated with the U.S. economy. Through investor protection provisions in CETA, 42,000 American companies operating in Canada would be able to sue European governments. There is also substantial evidence that the threat of investor court challenges is a major lobbying tool that can curtail environmental policy-making.

Canada's experience under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) shows how chilling these agreements can be to environmental protections. Our country's environmental protections have

been challenged by Investor-State Dispute Settlement provisions in NAFTA, which will not change substantially under the proposed investment court system. We have faced 37 challenges, two-thirds of them involving environmental legislation or policies. In 2014, under NAFTA, we were the world's most frequently sued developed country.

Through CETA, we will also face regulatory cooperation, a threat to European and Canadian health and safety regulations. In this situation, industry groups and stakeholders would have the opportunity to examine regulations before they were seen by parliaments in Europe or Canada.

Canada has some very questionable regulations that, through CETA, Canadian agricultural groups will be ready and willing to export to Europe: the use of neonicotinoids, abandonment of the precautionary principle, hormones in beef, ractopamine, GMOs, inadequate labelling of colouring, pesticides and glyphosate in food, limited protection for GIs, and weak animal welfare penalties. We have also seen, through trade agreements, a downward trend in food quality, safety and sovereignty, and growing dominance of the industrial farm model.

Moreover, the risks to climate action recently pointed out by Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz would apply equally to CETA. Already at the negotiation stage, CETA has been a powerful tool in halting planned European regulations aimed at preventing tar sands oil from entering the EU. CETA's investment provisions would add a further layer of protection to fossil fuel companies investing into unburnable carbon on both sides of the Atlantic.

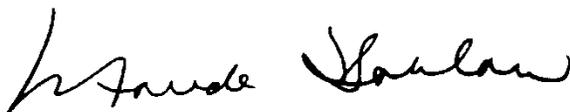
In essence, through CETA we are choosing to expand the power of corporations and lessen the ability of our states to protect our local communities and ways of life. You as Greens would still be in government but with ever less power to steer us away from a destructive course and towards a truly sustainable future.

A few weeks ago, the regional parliament of Wallonia in Belgium courageously raised its voice in opposing CETA, which would set Europe on a different and dangerous course. This is a decisive moment for Europe: CETA would be the first new-generation trade agreement, with NAFTA-style investor protections.

You are caretakers of the planet and have a huge responsibility regarding CETA. Please do not let Europe make the same mistake that Canada made in signing NAFTA. We urge you to make your voice heard and to stop this agreement, which is a step in the wrong direction if we seek to protect the planet.



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