

From: [Henry Adams](#)

Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2011 2:56 PM

To: [Tim Farron](#)

Cc: simon@simonhughes.org.uk

Subject: URGENT - CETA - threat of CETA giving power to "big oil" companies legal power to over-ride environment /climate change legislation

I am extremely concerned with the huge threats of **CETA** – which seem to be little known by the public and most people despite major future implications:

Clauses within the Canada-EU free-trade agreement CETA **will give oil multinationals legal power to over-ride any legislation that might limit their profits from free trade – such as environmental / climate change legislation both present and future.**

The CETA negotiation process and its outcome appear to ignore the importance of democracy and sovereignty, and a non-EU government (Canada) - well-known for its over-arching priority to enable big-business profit to be unhindered by all other concerns such as health, environment and social justice – is being allowed huge influence on EU legislation – despite it being one of the main forces in blocking climate change agreements in its pursuit of supporting “Big Oil” profits from the Tar Sands.

The Canadian government has recently clearly demonstrated its extreme neo-liberal views on free trade by blocking the UN from listing **asbestos** as being hazardous to human health –in its efforts to help the Quebec chrysotile asbestos mining industry export asbestos to the Third World. - A hugely toxic government! [REF link](#)

A very good briefing on the CETA is by the UK Tar Sands Network:

http://www.no-tar-sands.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/NTSN_Brief-CETA-web.pdf

- page 2 is especially relevant, and its refs e.g. a legal opinion of CETA by a lawyer for the Council of Canadians is useful.

This pdf can also be accessed by the more summarized web-page: <http://www.no-tar-sands.org/campaigns/ceta/>

I hope you find time to read this information on CETA – which refer to the chapter containing the most threatening clause (**“the investor-state clause”**) [quote:] - ‘investment chapter’ that would grant Canadian and European companies the right to sue governments when environmental policies interfere with their profits. Similar rules in NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement) have already been used extensively by US firms to challenge environmental and resource-related policy in Canada. Canadian firms have also used these tools in other bilateral trade deals to attack environmental and mining-related decisions by foreign governments.

A closely associated concern is that CETA will stop an effective Fuel Quality Directive from being implemented (I will be emailing you more specifically on the FQD soon).

I hope you agree with me that such a clause would have appalling consequences if it is not removed – and I **strongly urge you to do your utmost best – such as via LibDem ministers in government – to ensure that UK government ministers do not agree to it.** Unless strong and quick action is taken the UK government could well agree to this clause – as it is the direction they appear to be heading under complicity with the Canadian government and the oil industry.

It would be unforgivable for the LibDems to be a party to allowing such a clause to be signed off. If they did – it would imply that the LibDems have changed to becoming more neo-liberals than social liberals.

You told me that things would be worse if the LibDems were not in coalition with the Conservatives. This clause is a worst case scenario – so I hope you can demonstrate your assertion.

With regards – and best of luck if you follow up this request with your full strength!

Henry Adams

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