

Dear Senators

I have read several of the authoritative submissions from research scientists not involved in commercial companies regarding the Patent Amendment ( Human Genes and Biological Materials ) Bill 2010 . As a result I am convinced that the above bill sponsored by Mr Heffernan and others would cause confusion , delays , and waste of resources inhibiting essential research by independent scientists in universities and research institutes . If there is a need to clarify some aspects of the existing legislation this amendment will not achieve what is needed.

There is an organised campaign underway from a few fringe organisations which oppose the development and growing of GM crops with the hope of convincing the Committee that a groundswell of support for the amendment exists. It does not. The fringe groups referred to ( Genethics, Madge et al) like the followers of Lord Monckton, deny the validity of established and much-tested science . They also preach a gospel of return to a small farming . ' earth- friendly ' approach to agriculture and oppose and denigrate the achievements of agricultural science in conventional plant breeding, use of modern fertilisers etc . They deny the vital role played by post-war agricultural technologies in averting famine despite the huge growth in the earth's population.

Support for the amendment by certain politicians reflects both a lack of understanding and a desire to pander to uninformed populism.

I urge the Committee to heed the advice of scientists and other experts on this matter.

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