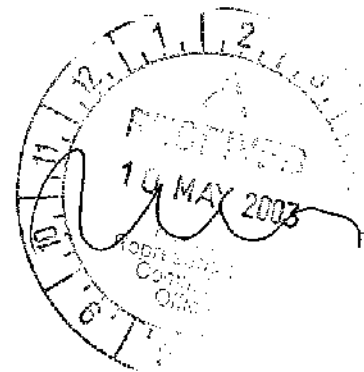


Bush Fire Inquiry
The House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT, 2600



Re: "Gum Leaves Power"

Dear Gentleperson,

I am very concern about the on going bushfire in Australia and I thought I very let you know what are my ideas about it.

Our house nearly got burned during the bushfire in the Hilltop NSW in the Southern Highland in the year 2001. While I was manually raking the gum leaves in a five acres areas of land so many ideas came into my mind and I said to myself something has to be done with this recurring problem.

The way I will tackle the problem is this:

Imagine a forest floor covered with combustible oil say 50 mm in thickness. So what is the next thing to do?

At our present way of thinking we will immediately recover the oil and send it to petroleum refinery and convert it to petroleum for our cars.

Or bulldoze the forest floor or plow it so that it stays buried in the ground but because the oil keeps on building up we have to do this on regular basis.

Or invent or find some bacteria that eats the oil so that it is converted into a non-combustible form.

Or burn carefully (should be done during cold season so that it will be easy to control the spread of the fire) a section of the forest floor covered with oil so that when the oil is lit it will not spread to a wider area.

Now let us replace the combustible oil with gum leaves and you can see that it opens up a wide areas of human activities that will be so beneficial to us that we can say we our lucky because of the presence of gum trees and gum leaves.

For us Chemical Engineers and Metallurgists we see the gum leaves on the forest floor not as leaves but a source of energy that can fuel varieties of human activities such as powering the the boilers for electricity generation, powering the furnace for brickmaking, and even incorporating it as a fuel supplement for iron making etc. etc.

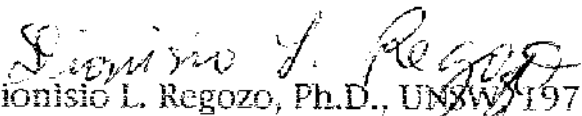
It breaks my heart to see my wife building up a big bonfire with the gum leaves and the twigs that I collected. I hope that everybody realize that those gum leaves and twigs contain energy that comes from the sun travelling at a distance of about 340 million miles and to burn it aimlessly is a big disservice to ourselves. These gum leaves and twigs is a natural resource that we should harvest and utilize.

The benefit for us will be things like jobs for harvesting the leaves and the follow on to the usage of the gum leaves, reduction in the generation of carbon dioxide as we will be using renewable source of energy instead of fossil fuels, reduction in expenses involving fire fighting equipment such as hiring Elvis etc.

These are my initial ideas and I hope that you will add this in your deliberation. I am sure more ideas will come up with other people with interests in other areas. If you need further help my phone number is 02 and my e-mail address is

020112 02

Yours sincerely,


Dionisio L. Regozo, Ph.D., UNSW 1971