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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

Maurice Vellacott, MP
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Biofuels boosting the economy and benefiting farmers

For Immediate Release **March 4, 2011**

OTTAWA – Today in the House of Commons, Conservative MP Maurice Vellacott (Saskatoon-Wanuskewin) asked the Agriculture Minister to clarify the benefits of the Conservative government's biofuels strategy:

> **Maurice Vellacott:** Mr. Speaker, our government is committed to strengthening Canada's economy. Last week Statistics Canada released the 2009 Bioproducts Production and Development Survey. The survey confirms that the investments our government has made have sparked the industry. Forty-three percent of those firms reporting have become involved in bioproducts production or development since our government took office. That is an outstanding growth rate!
>
> Can the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture tell the House how biofuels are benefiting Canadian farmers while boosting the Canadian economy?
>
> **Pierre Lemieux (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, that is a tough but fair question. The member for Saskatoon-Wanuskewin is absolutely right. Advancing Canada's bio-based economy while providing opportunities for our farmers is indeed a priority for this government. We have taken action by passing the renewable fuels bill in 2008. We have also developed a comprehensive renewable fuel strategy and invested over $2 billion in support of the renewable fuel industry. It is a strategy that is winning praise from leaders such as Don Kenny, chair of the Grain Farmers of Ontario, who said last month: "Thank you to the Canadian government for the implementation of a renewable fuels strategy that will truly benefit our farmers, our rural communities and all Canadians."

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For further comment, call (613) 992-1966 or (613) 297-2249