

FOOD OR FUEL?



America needs a clean biofuels industry to help reduce our dependence on oil and fight global warming. But not all biofuels are created equal.

When we use corn or other food crops for fuel, somebody, somewhere, has to clear land to replace the lost food. Too often, that means clearcutting rain forests and mowing down native grasslands — which store vast amounts of carbon as they create the oxygen we breathe. When they are cut down, all that carbon is released back into the atmosphere where it accelerates global warming.

As a result, trading food for fuel could just make global warming worse.

It's essential that we prevent any unintended consequences of growing food for fuel, or we'll just end up trading one problem for another.

That's why more than 200 scientists and economists, with expertise in this field, recently signed a letter urging that all future biofuels policies are based on the best science, including emissions from changes in land use.

You can read the letter at:
www.ucsusa.org/smartbioenergy

Let's work together to develop a smart, science-based solution that promotes clean biofuels without making global warming worse.



Union of Concerned Scientists
Sound Science, Practical Solutions