

MEDIA ADVISORY / PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 3, 2007

UC Berkeley Students and Citizens Demonstrate to Stop Proposed Deal with Oil Company BP.

Who: Student Campaign to Stop BP at Berkeley, <http://stopBP-Berkeley.org>

CONTACT: Erik Westling (415) 810-8325

Keith Brown (503) 341-5760

What: News conference at 11:30 pm
Theatrical Demonstration at 12 pm

Where: Beginning at Kroeber Fountain, Bancroft and College, Berkeley

When: Thursday, October 4

Berkeley, California— UC Berkeley students and citizens will demonstrate this Thursday against oil giant BP's pending research deal with the university, at a forum on biofuels and energy sponsored by BP proponents.

This spring, there was an outpouring of outrage after the public learned of the proposed partnership between a huge oil corporation and UC Berkeley, which is one of the nation's leading *public* universities. The deal would also involve the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab and University of Illinois. Since February, opposition from concerned students and community members has been successful in postponing this deal so far.

This week, although the deal has yet to be signed and its future is not certain, the Energy Biosciences Institute (EBI) is co-hosting a forum on "Biofuels and the Search for a Fuel of the Future." The EBI is the proposed entity that would be formed as a result of the BP deal, and BP would hold the majority of governing power. We oppose the BP-Berkeley agreement for three major reasons:

- * The social and environmental consequences of large-scale biofuel production and genetic modification research.

- * BP's control over the research agenda and the public university.

- * The undemocratic decision making and negotiation processes.

On Thursday Oct. 4, the EBI hosted forum will meet from 12:00 to 5:00 at the Bancroft Hotel (2680 Bancroft Way, Berkeley). Protestors will meet at 11:30 am, across the street from the Bancroft Hotel, in front of Kroeber Hall on the UC Berkeley campus. As the forum begins, protestors will march across the street and express their concerns. The demonstration will continue throughout the day as those attending the forum relocate to different conferences around the UC Berkeley campus.

Consumer advocate John M. Simpson of the Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights (FCTR) will hold a news conference at 11:30 am in front of Kroeber Hall, and will distribute T-shirts reading "I Didn't Enroll in UC-BP" to students.