

# WHY STOP THE \$500m BP-UC BIOFUEL DEAL?



## 1. Students and the public had almost no say in the biggest corporate deal in UC history.

The University of California administration is about to sign a \$500 million agreement with the oil giant British Petroleum to establish a biofuels research center, without any substantial review or input by faculty or students, let alone the general public. This is the deal's "public review" period, but UC & BP have not released the full agreement text. On a public campus, students and faculty should have a democratic say in if and how corporate money affects them.

## 2. Serious concerns exist about whether biofuels are sustainable or not.

### **An oil company shouldn't decide - we should.**

Many scientists say that biofuels have caused terrible deforestation, pollution, and poverty around the world.

Some say they take more energy to make than they actually produce. Others say they can worsen climate change. Researchers at UC Berkeley have led the debate, sometimes on both sides, of these issues. The BP proposal underplays these concerns, bypassing the serious research of many accomplished scientists. Experts from all sides should get to have a say about the deal, not just the BP deal proponents and school administrators.

## 3. UC Berkeley's research agenda belongs to us, not to for-profit corporations.

### **Corporations should not own the school's work.**

UC Berkeley's research should not create products for corporations to own. Taxpayers should not subsidize research for private companies. Our university is becoming increasingly commercial; the BP deal is reported to double the size of corporate funding. Corporations fund research to produce goods to sell for profit. Their close involvement in research can seriously undermine scientific inquiry for the public good. When this focus on profit grows in universities, it results in research that serves corporate interest over all else. Input from other researchers on this very campus about consequences of these products is ignored in the rush to make money. Profit should never be more important than dialogue and free exchange of ideas at UC Berkeley!

**THE BUCK STOPS HERE!**

**STOPBP-BERKELEY.ORG**

**Teach-in: Monday Feb 26  
6pm 101 Morgan**

**Dissent: Tuesday Feb 27  
1pm California Hall**