



September 26, 2012

CF#12-0002-  
567

Honorable Members Intergovernmental Relations Committee  
Los Angeles City Hall  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: Resolution to support Proposition 37, the "California Right to Know Genetically Engineered Food Act."**

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

I am writing to respectfully request your support of the Resolution Supporting Proposition 37, the "California Right to Know Genetically Engineered Food Act," which would give every Californian consumer the right to know whether they are purchasing and/or eating genetically engineered food.

Food & Water Watch, a national consumer advocacy organization, works to ensure the food, water and fish we consume is safe, accessible and sustainably produced. It is for this reason that we join the large coalition of environmental, health, labor and consumer rights organizations, including among others: the California Labor Federation, United Farm Workers, America Public Health Association, Consumer Federation of America, the Sierra Club, the California Democratic Party and hundreds of other California organizations, in supporting Proposition 37.

Proposition 37 is a simple and clear proposition that would require that, as over 50 other countries already mandate, companies add a few words to their product label if it contains genetically engineered food. Public opinion surveys consistently show overwhelming support for people's desire to know whether the food they eat has been genetically modified. For consumers to have the opportunity to make informed choices about their food, GE foods should be labeled.

While the opposition has big money to confuse and create false notions regarding the soundness of genetically engineered food and potential costs, given the fact that genetically engineered foods are most often untested, frequently require dangerous chemicals in their farming and pose threats to organic food and the environment, it is essential that the public has the right to know what they purchase and eat.

We thank you for taking the time to consider this important resolution that supports the public's right to know. If you have any questions or seek additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Brenna Norton, Southern California Organizer  
Food and Water Watch

5365 W Adams Blvd.  
Los Angeles CA, 90016  
(p) 323-843-8450  
[bnorton@fwwatch.org](mailto:bnorton@fwwatch.org)

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cc: Mayor Villaraigosa  
LA City Councilmembers  
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September 19, 2012

VIA Email and USPS

The Honorable Herb J. Wesson Jr., Chair  
Rules, Elections & Intergovernmental Relations Committee  
City Council  
City of Los Angeles  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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**Re: Prop. 37- California Right to Know Genetically Engineered Food Act;  
Council File 12-0002-S67**

Dear Chairman Wesson, and Councilmembers LaBonge and Huizar,

On behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity and our 370,000 members and supporters across the U.S, including the City of Los Angeles, we urge the Rules, Elections & Intergovernmental Relations Committee to pass the resolution of Councilman Paul Koretz in support Proposition 37, the "California Right to Know Genetically Engineered Food Act."

Prop. 37 is a common-sense November ballot measure that will help consumers make informed choices about their food. It simply requires labels letting consumers know if foods are genetically modified. Genetically engineered food is a plant or meat product that has had its DNA artificially altered in a laboratory by genes from other plants, animals, viruses, or bacteria. This type of genetic alteration is not found in nature and is experimental.

Genetic engineering has been associated with biodiversity loss, an overall increase in pesticide use, the emergence of super weeds, and the unintentional contamination of conventional and organic crops. There are also serious concerns about the safety of genetically engineered food, which has not been proven safe in an absence of long-term health studies. A growing body of peer-reviewed studies has linked these foods to allergies, organ problems, and other health problems.

In California, like most of the county, there are no requirements to inform consumers if their food contains genetically modified food. Between 40-70% of foods in grocery stores in California contain some genetically engineered ingredients, but we don't know the exact details because there are no labeling requirements.

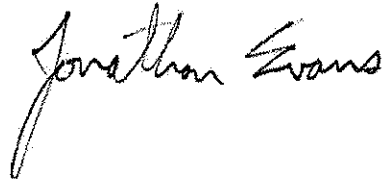
This is a fiscally sound proposal because the costs to California consumers and the state are negligible. Economic analysis for Prop. 37 concludes that there would be "no increases in

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prices as a result of the relabeling required.” In Europe, introduction of GMO labeling produced no increase in food costs. According to the State Legislative Analysts Office costs to regulate the program would range from a few hundred thousand dollars to one million dollars annually. These are minimal costs when it comes to disclosures about food safety.

Editorial boards like the North County times and Californian have come out in favor of the consumers’ right to know (attached EDITORIAL: Yes on Prop. 37). It’s time for the City of Los Angeles to also help support the rights of consumers to know what they eat. Californians deserve the right to know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Evans". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'J'.

Jonathan Evans

cc (via email):

Councilmember Ed Reyes  
Councilmember Paul Krekorian  
Councilmember Dennis Zine  
Councilmember Paul Koretz  
Councilmember Tony Cardenas  
Councilmember Richard Alarcon  
Councilmember Bernard Parks  
Councilmember Jan Perry  
Councilmember Bill Rosendahl  
Councilmember Mitchell Englander  
Councilmember Eric Garcetti  
Councilmember Joe Buscaino