



May 16, 2013

Los Angeles City Council  
200 N. Spring St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

CF # 13-0002-541

Members of the Los Angeles City Council,

Food & Water Watch is a national nonprofit consumer advocacy group, with 71,000 members in California. We strongly support the resolution introduced by Councilmembers Koretz and Huizar that expresses the Council's opposition to any attempts to weaken judicial oversight of genetically engineered crops.

In March, Congress passed a continuing resolution to fund the operation of the federal government for the rest of fiscal year 2013. This continuing resolution contained a provision dubbed the "Monsanto Protection Act" that allows the continued planting of genetically engineered crops even after a court finds they were approved illegally. This provision unnecessarily interferes with judicial review and oversight of federal agencies and weakens the already inadequate review process for genetically engineered crops.

The inclusion of this provision in a must-pass budget bill was a giveaway to the biotechnology industry and an abuse of the legislative process. This provision is in effect until the end of the fiscal year, September 30, 2013. But this or similar language to weaken the oversight of controversial genetically engineered crops could be added to the Farm Bill that Congress is debating right now or future appropriations bills. Therefore, a resolution from the Los Angeles City Council opposing this attack on judicial oversight will send a welcome signal to federal legislators not to include this bad policy in any legislation in the future.

We urge the members of the Council to support this resolution.

Sincerely,

Wenonah Hauter  
Executive Director

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