Members of Los Angeles City Council 200 N. Spring Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re:

Council File 13-1374

Prohibit the Growth of Genetically Modified (GM) Crops within City Limits

## Councilmember:

We support a GMO-Free Zone in Los Angeles!

- 1. A GMO-Free Zone in Los Angeles will protect home gardens, school gardens, community gardens and homegrown food. It will create an area of 502+ square miles (the City footprint) where it is safe to save heirloom vegetable seeds without threat of contamination from genetic modification.
- 2. A GMO-Free L.A. would encourage more economic development in urban agriculture in L.A. Local growers and food producers could promote their products as "GMO-Free." It would create local jobs, grow more local produce, and boost the local tax base.
- 3. The long-term impacts of genetic engineering on human health are virtually untested, and there is no transparency of scientific findings. Recent studies in Europe are finding that genetically modified foods may be seriously detrimental to human health.
- 4. Creating a GMO-Free Zone will have no impact on the cost of purchased food. It will not affect the prices of conventional food, prepared food, or food grown outside the L.A. area. A GMO-Free Zone will protect homegrown food, and make it easier for citizens to save seeds *for free*. It will boost people's ability to be self-sufficient.
- 5. A GMO-Free Zone in L.A. will protect vegetable varieties with cultural heritage, or heirloom/historic varieties (for example Native American corn). This initiative helps prevent contamination by genetic modification.
- 6. Keeping L.A. GMO-Free will help ensure the safety of our bee populations.
- 7. This initiative stands the potential to have significant long-term impact on food security, because this initiative helps protect the diversity of vegetable plants. And that diversity is desperately needed for humanity's survival in a climate-changed future.

This initiative joins and supports the growing national and international movement to limit the spread of GMOs.

Please approve the motion introduced by Councilmembers Koretz and O'Farrell, and seconded by Councilmember Bonin. Please create a GMO-Free Zone in Los Angeles!

Sincerely, King Seation, R. M.T. Kory Seaton, R.M.T.

Reiki Muster Tracher





Vice-President
Orlando Gonzalez

Chief Financial Officer Xochitl Ramos

Concha Speaker Max Bañuelos

Concha Speaker Abraham Ramirez

Concha Speaker Xochitl Ramos



November 25, 2014

Mayor Eric Garcetti
City Council President Herb Wesson
Chairman Felipe Fuentes
Chairman Jose Huizar
Chairman Mitch O'Farrell
Members of Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Council File 13-1374 Prohibit the Growth of Genetically Modified (GM) Crops within City Limits

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers:

We, the Harmony Keepers support a GMO-Free Zone in Los Angeles. As an indigenous organization, we believe in protecting mother earth to ensure that the children grow up to be healthy. We urge you to support the items below:

- 1. A GMO-Free Zone in Los Angeles will protect home gardens, school gardens, community gardens and homegrown food. It will create an area of 502+ square miles (the City footprint) where it is safe to save heirloom vegetable seeds without threat of contamination from genetic modification.
- A GMO-Free L.A. would encourage more economic development in urban agriculture in L.A. Local
  growers and food producers could promote their products as "GMO-Free." It would create local jobs, grow
  more local produce, and boost the local tax base.
- The long-term impacts of genetic engineering on human health are virtually untested, and there is no transparency of scientific findings. Recent studies in Europe are finding that genetically modified foods may be seriously detrimental to human health.
- 4. Creating a GMO-Free Zone will have no impact on the cost of purchased food. It will not affect the prices of conventional food, prepared food, or food grown outside the L.A. area. A GMO-Free Zone will protect homegrown food, and make it easier for citizens to save seeds for free. It will boost people's ability to be self-sufficient.
- A GMO-Free Zone in L.A. will protect vegetable varieties with cultural heritage, or heirloom/historic varieties (for example Native American corn). This initiative helps prevent contamination by genetic modification.
- Keeping L.A. GMO-Free will also help ensure the safety of our bee populations which are rapidly declining.
- 7. This initiative has the potential to have significant long-term impact on food security, because this initiative helps protect the diversity of vegetable plants; and that diversity is desperately needed for humanity's survival in a climate-changed future.

This initiative joins and supports the growing national and international movement to limit the spread of GMOs. The Harmony Keepers humbly request that all of you approve the motion introduced by Councilmembers Koretz and O'Farrell, and seconded by Councilmember Bonin.

Please create a GMO-Free Zone in Los Angeles!

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. We appreciate your support and positive energy.

Mitakuye Oyasin

Hector Perez Pacheco, Speaker Harmony Keepers "Strong Hearts"



Re: Endorsement for LA GMO-Free Zone Motion—File #13-1374

On behalf of <u>Esperanon lillasenol</u> , I wish to express our organization's support of the Koretz-O'Farrell motion #13-1374. This would make the City of Los Angeles a GMO-Free Zone with regard to the sale, distribution and growth of GMO plants and seeds.
Business/Organization/Group Affirm
Name and Title
Signature
Street, City & Zip Code 84/4 Orion al. 134 North #115 CA
Telephone Number 8/8 339-9596
Website
E-Mail White ange/19/10/Live. Com
Date 11-24_2014
Additional Comments: Frow & Sell baby greens locally



Re: Endorsement for LA GMO-Free Zone Motion—File #13-1374

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On behalf of I wish to express our organization's suppor
of the Koretz-O'Farrell motion #13-1374. This would make the City of Los Angeles a GMO-Free Zone wit
regard to the sale, distribution and growth of GMO plants and seeds.
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Business/Organization/Group Etiteringe Farme
GE CHIAA.
Name and Title OWNER - GENE ETTERINGE
Signature Rolling
Street, City & Zip Code 9313 AVE 392 DIMBA CA 93618
Street, City & Zip Code 1713 AVE 372 DI MBA CT W618
Telephone Number (539) 591-7110 (539) 999-5826
Telephone Number (307) 377 - 7170 (307) 787 - 3826
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Website
EDANIE PODOLIK Q YALES COST
E-Mail Bofgere @ YAhou- com.  Date 23 NOV 14
Date 23 NOV 14
Date
Additional Comments:
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IND.



Re: Endorsement for LA GMO-Free Zone Motion-File #13-1374

Business/Organization/Group Novo Olive Oil

Name and Title RMCNoir (OO - Los Angeles)

Signature

Street, City & Zip Code 11575 Merpark N Hellywood

Telephone Number 714364-7717

Website navoolive Oil. Com

E-Mail

Date 11/23/14

Additional Comments:



Re: Endorsement for LA GMO-Free Zone Motion-File #13-1374

On behalf of Rice + Beans, LA I wish to express our organization's support	
of the Koretz-O'Farrell motion #13-1374. This would make the City of Los Angeles a GMO-Free Zone with	5
regard to the sale, distribution and growth of GMO plants and seeds.	+
Business/Organization/Group Rice + Beans LA	-
Name and Title Kristy Balkzore, Owner Operator	+
Signature	9
Street, City & Zip Code 50   N. Ave 65 LA CA 9004?	apture
Telephone Number 213 - 309 - 0366	Cap
Websiterice and beans la. com	0
E-Mail rice and beans la egnal. com	4
Date 11/22/14	Je k
Additional Comments:	K.
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poid politicions. Food is a basic human	Thes
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Ken Arno Dorcen Radogna 17344 Vanowen St. Lake Balboa, CA 91406

(818) 774-0755 Cell (818) 521-8613 KArno@socal.rr.com

To: Mayor Eric Garcetti
City Council President Herb Wesson
Chairman Felipe Fuentes
Chairman Jose Huizar
Chairman Mitch O'Farrell
Los Angeles City Hall
220 North Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Additional Comments:

Re: Endorsement for LA GMO-Free Zone Motion—File #13-1374

On behalf of The Ken Dor Farm, I wish to express our organization's support of the Koretz-O'Farrell motion #13-1374. This would make the City of Los Angeles a GMO-Free Zone with regard to the sale, distribution and growth of GMO plants and seeds.

Business/Organization/Group The KenDor Garm

Name and Title Ken Armo

Signature

Address & Zip Code 12571 Capra Rd Solidad CA

Telephone Number 216 521 3613

Website Kendano & Lahoo Com

E-Mail Kendano & Lahoo Com

Date 11-23-14





DOUG MEYER 414 507 6888 DOUG@BLODEKUH.COM

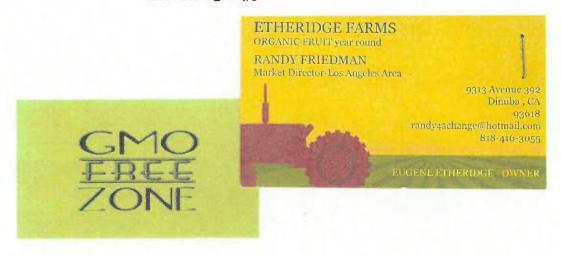
WWW.BLODEKUH.COM

| BLODEKUHLA | BLODEKUHLA

To: Mayor Eric Garcetti
City Council President Herb Wesson
Chairman Felipe Fuentes
Chairman Jose Huizar
Chairman Mitch O'Farrell
Los Angeles City Hall
220 North Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Additional Comments:

Re: Endorsement for LA GMO-Free Zone Motion—File #13-1374



Re: Endorsement for LA GMO-Free Zone Motion—File #13-1374

On behalf of Friend / Theridge Organics, I wish to express our organization's support of the Koretz-O'Farrell motion #13-1374. This would make the City of Los Angeles a GMO-Free Zone with regard to the sale, distribution and growth of GMO plants and seeds.

Business/Organization/Group
Name and Title KANNY FRIGHMAN
Signature ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) (
Street, City & Zip Code 6650 Augustust the \$108 Van Mys
Telephone Number 818 - 786 - 2015
Website
E-Mail_ Romp La Charge Q Hotmse. con
Date 11/23/ 2614
Additional Comments:



# A World Fit For Kids!

Date 11/7/2014

Members of Los Angeles City Council 200 N. Spring Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Council File 13-1374

Prohibit the Growth of Genetically Modified (GM) Crops within City Limits

## Councilmember:

We support a GMO-Free Zone in Los Angeles!

- A GMO-Free Zone in Los Angeles will protect home gardens, school gardens, community
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  contamination from genetic modification.
- A GMO-Free L.A. would encourage more economic development in urban agriculture in L.A. Local growers and food producers could promote their products as "GMO-Free." It would create local jobs, grow more local produce, and boost the local tax base.
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- 4. Creating a GMO-Free Zone will have no impact on the cost of purchased food. It will not affect the prices of conventional food, prepared food, or food grown outside the L.A. area. A GMO-Free Zone will protect homegrown food, and make it easier for citizens to save seeds for free. It will boost people's ability to be self-sufficient.
- A GMO-Free Zone in L.A. will protect vegetable varieties with cultural heritage, or heirloom/historic varieties (for example Native American corn). This initiative helps prevent contamination by genetic modification.
- 6. Keeping L.A. GMO-Free will help ensure the safety of our bee populations.
- 7. This initiative stands the potential to have significant long-term impact on food security, because this initiative helps protect the diversity of vegetable plants. And that diversity is desperately needed for humanity's survival in a climate-changed future.

This initiative joins and supports the growing national and international movement to limit the spread of GMOs.

Please approve the motion introduced by Councilmembers Koretz and O'Farrell, and seconded by Councilmember Bonin. Please create a GMO-Free Zone in Los Angeles!

Yours in Good Health.

A World FK For Kids! Health Outreach Director



novement.

Re: Endorsement for LA GMO-Free Zone Motion-File #13-1374

Business/Organization/Group Dey Deys Blot Beef Ever
Name and Title Daphne Sterling - Sales
Signature Street, City & Zip Code 3951 Sequoia St. Los Angeles, Ca 90039
Telephone Number 85570-9000
Website www.best beefever.com

E-Mail Ti Samira 850 gmail.com

Date 1110114

Additional Comments:

I am very much in Support of this

On behalf of Dey Deus Best Beet Gui wish to express our organization's support of the Koretz-O'Farrell motion #13-1374. This would make the City of Los Angeles a GMO-Free Zone with



Re: Endorsement for LA GMO-Free Zone Motion—File #13-1374

On behalf of Menos Farms I wish to express our organization's support
of the Koretz-O'Farrell motion #13-1374. This would make the City of Los Angeles a GMO-Free Zone with
regard to the sale, distribution and growth of GMO plants and seeds.
Maria Edward
Business/Organization/Group Meños Farms
DI C
Name and Title ratricia soures - Manager
Name and Title Patricia Soares - Manager Signature Patricia A Soares
Signature 17000000000000000000000000000000000000
Street, City & Zip Code Riverside CA 92505
Telephone Number
Website
E-Mail
Date Nov. 16, 2014
Date 1000 10 2017
Additional Comments:



Re: Endorsement for LA GMO-Free Zone Motion-File #13-1374

On behalf of Tarms, I wish to express our organization's support
of the Koretz-O'Farrell motion #13-1374. This would make the City of Los Angeles a GMO-Free Zone with
regard to the sale, distribution and growth of GMO plants and seeds.
Business/Organization/Group G Farms
Name and Title Jose Cost man
( 17 mm
Signature Jose Guzman
Street, City & Zip Code 405 w Maple St Exeter CA
Street, City & Zip Code 400 w Maple 51 West Ch
Telephone Number (559) 303-0203
Telephone Number
Website
E-Mail Payaro, vo lando a hot mail com
Date 11/16/14
Additional Comments:



Additional Comments:

Re: Endorsement for LA GMO-Free Zone Motion-File #13-1374

Rusiness/Organization/Group Chay Berry Farm

Name and Title Jesus Mendez

Signature

Street, City & Zip Code 1762 M. I. M. Coln Sanguaria CA

Telephone Number 805 2643871

Website

E-Mail

On behalf of Chuy Berry Farm, I wish to express our organization's support of the Koretz-O'Farrell motion #13-1374. This would make the City of Los Angeles a GMO-Free Zone with

Date: November 21, 2014

Mayor Eric Garcetti
City Council President Herb Wesson
Chairman Felipe Fuentes
Chairman Jose Huizar
Chairman Mitch O'Farrell

Re: Endorsement of LA GMO Free Zone Motion - File #13-1374

Dear Mayor, President Wesson, Chairman Fuentes, Chairman Huizar, Chairman O'Farrell, and Honorable Councilmembers:

On behalf of the Los Angeles Valley College Sustainability Committee, I am writing to express our organization's endorsement of the Koretz-O'Farrell motion #13-1374 to make the City of Los Angeles a GMO-Free Zone with regard to the sale, distribution and growth of GMO plants and seeds.

We urge you to make every effort to support and pass this measure. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Sarah Hage

LAVC Sustainability Committee



movement

Re: Endorsement for LA GMO-Free Zone Motion-File #13-1374

regard to the sale, distribution and growth of GMO plants and seeds.

Business/Organization/Group Dey Deys Best Beef Ever

Name and Title Darbne Sterling - Sales

Signature Steet, City & Zip Code 3954 Sequoia St. Los Angeles, Ca 90039

Telephone Number (805) 570-9000

Website Www. best beef ever. Com

E-Mail Ti Samira 850 gmail. Com

Date Will 14

Additional Comments:

I am Very much in Support of this

On behalf of Dey Deus Best Best Gul wish to express our organization's support of the Koretz-O'Farrell motion #13-1374. This would make the City of Los Angeles a GMO-Free Zone with



Re: Endorsement for LA GMO-Free Zone Motion—File #13-1374

To: Mayor Eric Garcetti
City Council President Herb Wesson
Chairman Felipe Fuentes
Chairman Jose Huizar
Chairman Mitch O'Farrell
Los Angeles City Hall
220 North Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Additional Comments:



Re: Endorsement for LA GMO-Free Zone Motion—File #13-1374

On behalf of Tharms I wish to express our organization's support
of the Koretz-O'Farrell motion #13-1374. This would make the City of Los Angeles a GMO-Free Zone with
regard to the sale, distribution and growth of GMO plants and seeds.
Business/Organization/Group G Farm S
Business/Organization/Group 12(M5
Name 1711 Tage (
Name and Title Jose (207 man
Signature Jose Guzman
Street, City & Zip Code 405 W Maple St Exeter CA
Street, City & Zip Code 400 w Maple 51 CA CAS
Telephone Number (559) 303-0203
Website
E-Mail Pajaro, Volando a hotmail. com
Date 11/16/14
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Additional Comments:



Additional Comments:

Re: Endorsement for LA GMO-Free Zone Motion-File #13-1374

Additional Comments:

Re: Endorsement for LA GMO-Free Zone Motion-File #13-1374

On behalf of Suplemento Cambritatio I wish to express our organization's support of the Koretz-O'Farrell motion #13-1374. This would make the City of Los Angeles a GMO-Free Zone with regard to the sale, distribution and growth of GMO plants and seeds.

Business/Organization/Group Suplemento Comunitatio KPFK 90.7 FM.

Name and Title Facultica Padia

Signature

Address & Zip Code 3724 West xlorth Hollywood

Telephone Number (323) 5358766 Pedio Sanchez

Website KpfK 0 org

E-Mail Padro Sanchez KpfK @ Yahoo.com

Date Hev 16, 2014.

# Re: Endorsement for LA GMO-Free Zone Motion—File #13-1374

On behalf of LOUITE PLOTUCCIACIA LA HEY/ I wish to express our organization's support of the Koretz-O'Farrell motion #13-1374. This would make the City of Los Angeles a GMO-Free Zone with regard to the sale, distribution and growth of GMO plants and seeds.

Business/Organization/Group COULTE PROJECTO CRACIA BU WIS XIC
Name and Title COORDINADORA INDVANDECIA
Signature VVV
Address & Zip Code 3411 FOLSOW ST 4 (A 90063
Telephone Number 323 854 - 20 60
Website counteprodemorgala, org
E-Mail la comité Q dol. com
Date NOJ-16-14.

Additional Comments:

Re: Endorsement for LA GMO-Free Zone Motion—File #13-1374

On behalf of 4 Vo Serv 132 Les Angeles , I wish to express our organization's support of the Koretz-O'Farrell motion #13-1374. This would make the City of Los Angeles a GMO-Free Zone with regard to the sale, distribution and growth of GMO plants and seeds.
Business/Organization/Group # VoSay 132 Los Argeles
Name and Title Xalli Massa active member
Signature
Address & Zip Code 9057
Telephone Number 3 10 877 5777
Website FB: YoSay137Los Angeles
E-Mail yosay 132@gmail.com
Date
Additional Comments: #LA Free & MO

Re: Endorsement for LA GMO-Free Zone Motion-File #13-1374

On behalf of <u>tamidantes</u> (In idas <u>onflos structid</u>) I wish to express our organization's support of the Koretz-O'Fatzell motion #13-1374. This would make the City of Los Angeles a GMO-Free Zone with regard to the sale, distribution and growth of GMO plants and seeds.

Business/Organization/Group Inmigrantes Unidos en recistencia
Name and Title
Signature Concepción gome T
Address & Zip Code 2613/2 E 4 +4 20 00900 33
Telephone Number 323 247 27 17
Website www. inmigrantes unida a Bood Desis toncia, com
E-Mail innigrante suppagnail com  Date 11-16-2014
Date 11-16-2014
Additional Comments:

Re: Endorsement for LA GMO-Free Zone Motion-File #13-1374

On behalf of AJECA LOS AN GELES , I wish to express our organization's support of the Koretz-O'Farrell motion #13-1374. This would make the City of Los Angeles a GMO-Free Zone with regard to the sale, distribution and growth of GMO plants and seeds.

	rganization/Group GRUPOS ALERTA LOS ANGELES
Name and	Title COORDINADORAMMISTRANOR
	COAR Chops
Address & 2	Zip CodeQDZSD
Telephone	Number (3P) 503-1179
Website _	ALENTA LOS ANGELE/FB
E-Mail	DERTALOS ANGELESED COMAILCOM
Date	11-17-2014

Additional Comments:

Re: Endorsement for LA GMO-Free Zone Motion—File #13-1374

On behalf of	The	28ess	, I wish to express our organization's suppor
of the Koretz-O	'Farrell m	otion #13-1374	. This would make the City of Los Angeles a GMO-Free Zone with
regard to the sa	ale, distrib	oution and grow	th of GMO plants and seeds.
Business/Organ	nization/G	roup	The 28ers
Name and Title		TEFF G	reen Member
Signature	Au	2	2 Riverside CA. 92501
Address & Zip (	Code	BOX 89	2 Riverside CA. 92501
Telephone Nun	nber	951-999	-7184
Website	WWW	1.28ess	.059
E-Mail	FF a G	Depicent	ermagazine.019
Date	/16/	14	
Additional Com	ments:		

# Re: Endorsement for LA GMO-Free Zone Motion—File #13-1374

On behalf of Rapid Response Network I wish to express our organization's support of the Koretz-O'Farrell motion #13-1374. This would make the City of Los Angeles a GMO-Free Zone with regard to the sale, distribution and growth of GMO plants and seeds.

Business/Organization/Group RAPID RESPONSE NETWORK
Name and Title HOMERO LOBATO and JENNAYA DUNLAP volunteers
Signature Office Control of the Cont
Address & Zip Code
Telephone Number (951) 345-4043
Website www.facebook.com/redderespuesta
E-Mail homerovigiero@yahoo.com, contraredadar@gmall.com
Date 11/16/2014
Additional Comments:

Re: Endorsement for LA GMO-Free Zone Motion—File #13-1374

On behalf of 504 MEXICO. 02-G I wish to express our organization's support of the Koretz-O'Farrell motion #13-1374. This would make the City of Los Angeles a GMO-Free Zone with regard to the sale, distribution and growth of GMO plants and seeds.
Business/Organization/Group 504MEXICO - DRG
Name and Title JOSE HERWANDEZ /CBO
Signature
Address & Zip Code 12362 BEACH. BLVD IF 14F
Telephone Number 424 - 224 - 314 (
Website 504MEXICO-ORG
E-Mail CTC 293 Q SOYMEXICO. DRG
Date Nov. 16, 2019
Additional Comments:

## Re: Endorsement for LA GMO-Free Zone Motion—File #13-1374

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On behalf of Chicago Round Table _ I wish to express our organization's support
of the Koretz-O'Farrell motion #13-1374. This would make the City of Los Angeles a GMO-Free Zone with
regard to the sale, distribution and growth of GMO plants and seeds.
Business/Organization/Group Officero Round Table.
Name and Title 2 as bevan Mertinez
Signature Wanter
Address & Zip Code 1141 Wavi CHa St
Telephone Number 323 262 9074
Website parpara, M+205@ GMail. COM.
E-Mail
Date
Additional Comments:



October 15, 2014

To: Mayor Eric Garcetti
City Council President Herb Wesson
Chairman Felipe Fuentes
Chairman Jose Huizar
Chairman Mitch O'Farrell
Los Angeles City Hall
220 North Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Council File 13-1374: Prohibit the Growth of Genetically Modified (GM) Crops within City Limits

Dear Councilmember Gil Cedillo:

The Latino Diabetes Association (LDA) supports a GMO-Free Zone in Los Angeles!

- The LDA has joined local, national, and international concerned supporters for banning untested and harmful GMO products in order to help ensure the safety and health of our food; and we strongly urge you to join this fight to protect our entire food supply at its molecular seed level to stop the profiteering of *Frankenfoods* at the expense of the entire human, animal, and plant populations.
- The long-term impacts of genetic engineering on human health are virtually untested, and there is no transparency of scientific findings. Recent studies in Europe are finding that genetically modified foods may be seriously detrimental to human health.
- A GMO-Free Zone in Los Angeles will protect home gardens, school gardens, community gardens and homegrown food. It will create an area of 502+ square miles (the City footprint) where it is safe to save heirloom vegetable seeds without threat of contamination from genetic modification.
- 4. Creating a GMO-Free Zone will have no impact on the cost of purchased food. It will not affect the prices of conventional food, prepared food, or food grown outside the L.A. area. A GMO-Free Zone will protect homegrown food, and make it easier for citizens to save seeds for free. It will boost people's ability to be self-sufficient.

This initiative joins and supports the growing national and international movement to limit the spread of GMOs. Please approve this motion introduced by Councilmembers Koretz and O'Farrell, and seconded by Councilmember Bonin. Please help our community create a GMO-Free Zone in Los Angeles!

Sincerely,

Randy Muñoz, Vice-Chair Latino Diabetes Association

"Preventing Diabetes In Our Communities"

(323) 837-9869 Office (323) 837-9931 Fax

www.LDA.org rmunoz@lda.org

**Mission Statement** 

Committed to delivering culturally relevant diabetes prevention and self-management education.

Vision Statement

To reduce and prevent diabetes by addressing health disparities through a culturally sensitive grassroots approach.

Core Values

Through credible, persuasive, and timely information coupled with education and emotional support, a person may successfully modify their life style to prevent the onset of diabetes or manage the impact of this disease.



October 17, 2014

Honorable Councilmembers Los Angeles City Hall 200 North Spring Street Los Angeles, California 90012

Council File 13-1374; Prohibit the Growth of Genetically Modified (GM) Crops within City Limits

Dear Honorable Councilmembers:

On behalf of Communities for a Better Environment (CBE), we write to express our strong support for the motion introduced by Councilmembers Paul Koretz and Mitch O'Farrell to create a "GMO-Free Zone" within the City of Los Angeles ("Motion").

CBE is a leading statewide environmental health and justice organization. Our mission is to build power within California's communities of color and low-income communities to achieve environmental justice by preventing and reducing pollution and building green, healthy and sustainable communities and environments.

CBE strongly agrees with the reasons outlined in the Motion explaining the necessity of a GMO-Free Los Angeles, such as destruction of biodiversity, colony collapse disorder, and GMO food consumption safety concerns. Genetically modified crops pose grave human and environmental health risks. One of the greatest dangers, often overlooked in the GMO discourse, is the increased use of synthetic herbicides and pesticides associated with GM crops, which expose farm workers and communities to debilitating and fatal diseases. Latinos disproportionately bear these severe health risks, since they comprise the great majority of farm workers in our state and nation. Children whose parents toil in the fields are particularly in peril, as they are likely the most pesticide-exposed subgroup in the country. The Motion before the Council is a significant step toward safeguarding the health of the public and environment.

There is growing data showing that the rise of genetically engineered crops necessarily results in increased synthetic herbicide and pesticide use and health risks. A major consequence

6325 Pacific Blvd, Suite 300 Huntington Park, CA 90255 323.826.9771

## Wilmington Field Office:

116 E. Pacific Coast Highway, Suite 200 Wilmington, CA 90744 310-952-9097 Northern California Office:

1904 Franklin Street, Suite 600 Oakland, CA 94612 510-302-0430



Adrianna Quintero-Somaini and Mayra Quirindongo, Hidden Danger: Environmental Health Threats in the Latino Community, A Report of the Natural Resource Defense Council, at Ch. 4 (Oct. 2004). Available at: http://www.nrdc.org/health/effects/latino/english/contents.asp.

GMO Free Zone October 17, 2014 Page 2

of the widespread use of GM crops, and the herbicides and pesticides they were developed to withstand, is the evolution of weeds and insects now resistant to these chemicals. Crops genetically engineered to withstand herbicides emerged in 1996, making it possible for farmers to use a broad-spectrum herbicide, glyphosate (the active ingredient in Monsanto's Roundup).<sup>2</sup> As scientists warned early on, glyphosate-resistant weeds quickly developed, requiring greater quantities of herbicides be used on crops. A similar pattern emerged with insect pests.<sup>3</sup> A recent study calculating the impact of resistant crop varieties over a 16-year period concluded that GE crops has brought about "substantial increases in the number and volume" of herbicides and pesticides applied since GE crops were introduced.<sup>4</sup>

The people most directly exposed to the risks of herbicides and pesticides are those who live near or work in farms. Because over 85% of farm workers in the U.S., and almost 100% of farm workers in California, are Latino, this problem is of particular concern to Latino communities. Studies have found that farm workers have elevated risks of certain kinds of cancer, Parkinson's disease, neurological effects, reproductive and developmental disorders, and increased respiratory disease due to pesticide exposure. There is also reported "evidence of associations between parental or infant exposures to pesticides and childhood brain tumors, leukemia, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, sarcoma, and Wilm's tumor[,]" as well as birth defects. A longitudinal birth cohort study examining the effect of pesticides on the health of farm workers' children in the City of Salinas found that children with mothers with high levels of pesticide exposure are at great risk for neurodevelopment problems, such as poor reflexes, pervasive developmental disorder, hyperactivity, and lower IQs. A leading researcher in children's environmental health, Dr. Philip Landrigan, equated the findings of the Salinas study with research findings on the effects of lead on children, which resulted in banning lead-based paint throughout the country decades ago.

Despite the severe health risks posed by pesticides and herbicides to farm workers and their communities, the industry had responded to resistant weeds and insect pests by developing more potent, and dangerous, herbicides and pesticides. Indeed, the EPA very recently authorized a new toxic herbicide combination, "Enlist Duo," manufactured by Dow AgroSciences, a

<sup>5</sup> Quintero-Somaini & Quirindongo, supra, at 38.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Charles M. Benbrook, Impacts of genetically engineered crops on pesticide use in the U.S. – the first sixteen years, Environmental Sciences Europe (Sept. 28, 2012). Available at: http://www.enveurope.com/content/24/1/24.

<sup>4</sup> See id.

Susan Kegley, PhD, The Health Costs of Our Food Production System: Pesticide Exposure and Effects on Farmers, Farm Workers, and Rural Residents, Physicians for Social Responsibility. Available at: http://www.psr.org/environment-and-health/environmental-health-policy-institute/responses/the-health-costs-of-our-food-production-system.html; see also, Quintero-Somaini & Quirindongo, supra, at 39-43; id. at 43 ("One such study, by the Cancer Registry of Central California, found that Hispanics employed as farmworkers had a 59 to 69 percent greater risk of stomach, cervical, and uterine cancer, and of some leukemias, than other Hispanics in California") (citing P.K. Mills and S. Kwong, Cancer Incidence in the United Farmworkers of America (UFW), 1987-1997, Cancer Registry of Central California (2001)).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> See Quintero-Somaini & Quirindongo, supra, at 39.

Freinkel, Susan. Warning Signs: How Pesticides Harm the Young Brain, The Nation. March 11, 2014. Available at: http://www.thenation.com/article/178804/warning-signs-how-pesticides-harm-young-brain#.

GMO Free Zone October 17, 2014 Page 3

subsidiary of Dow Chemical Company, to be used on GM crops resistant to glyphosate.<sup>10</sup> The new combination contains the herbicide 2,4-D,<sup>11</sup> which is notorious for causing non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, gastric, and other forms of cancer in farm workers chronically exposed to 2,4-D.<sup>12</sup> In approving this new herbicide combination, the EPA acknowledged that 2,4-D use will dramatically increase, which "could [then] result in the spread of weeds resistant to 2,4-D.<sup>13</sup> Thus, it is only a matter of time before GM crops require more powerful and increased quantities of chemicals, putting farm workers and their children at further risk of suffering potential lifelong and irreversible health consequences. It is an unconscionable practice and vicious cycle in which Latinos bear a deadly burden.

The City of Los Angeles has made recent strides in developing and supporting innovative sustainability policies. A City ordinance pursuant to the Motion will further ensure a healthy and sustainable Los Angeles by, among other things, protecting Angelenos from exposure to pesticide residues on food. The Motion is also a necessary policy step to halt the use of dangerous crop chemicals in our state and throughout the country. By passing the Motion, the City can help lead the nation toward policies that develop ecologically-based farming systems with minimal pesticide use, that are both economically sound and serve the public's health and welfare.

Accordingly, CBE strongly supports a GMO-Free Zone in the City of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

Gladys Limón Staff Attorney Bahram Fazeli Policy Director

Environmental Working Group, Press Release, EPA Ignores Public Outcry, Approves Dangerous Weed Killer, Oct. 15, 2014. Available at: http://www.ewg.org/release/epa-ignores-public-outcry-approves-dangerous-weed-killer. United States Environmental Protection Agency, Registration of Enlist Duo. Available at: http://www2.epa.gov/ingredients-used-pesticide-products/registration-enlist-duo#decision.

See Paul K. Mills and Richard C. Yang, Agricultural exposures and gastric cancer risk in Hispanic farm workers in California. Environ. Res. 104 (2007); Environmental Working Group, Press Release, "Citing Health Risks, Doctors and Scientists Urge Congress to Reject Potent Herbicide Mix for Genetically Engineered Crops, July 23, 2014. Available at: http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/press-releases/3321/citing-health-risks-doctors-and-scientists-urge-congress-to-reject-potent-herbicide-mix-for-genetically-engineered-crops#.
United States Environmental Protection Agency, Registration of Enlist Duo. Available at: http://www2.epa.gov/ingredients-used-pesticide-products/registration-enlist-duo#decision.



Mayor Eric Garcetti City Council President Herb Wesson Chairman Felipe Fuentes Chairman Jose Huizar Chairman Mitch O'Farrell

Re: Endorsement for LA GMO Free Zone Motion - File #13-1374

Dear Mayor Garcetti, President Wesson, Chairman Fuentes, Chairman Huizar, Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Councilmembers:

On behalf of <u>Nature's Path Foods</u>, North America's largest organic breakfast and snack food company, I am writing to express our endorsement of the Koretz-O'Farrell motion #13-1374 to make the City of Los Angeles a GMO-Free Zone with regard to the sale, distribution and growth of GMO plants and seeds.

We greatly appreciate that the City Council unanimously voted to support Prop. 37 in October 2012, and unanimously voted to support SB 1381 (Evans) to label GMOs, which was under consideration this Spring in the State Senate.

Nature's Path was on the steering committee for Proposition 37 to label GMOs (genetically modified organisms), which was on CA ballot in November 2012. We were outspent by more than 4:1 by corporations opposing our right to know what is in our food, and lost by only a small margin. We continue to fight for the right to eat GMO-free food. We succeeded tremendously in educating millions of Californians - and Americans - about this issue. Nearly 6 million Californians voted for Mandatory labeling those voices cannot be ignored. More and more people in L.A. are committing to eating healthier, non-GMO diets.

As you probably know, Proposition 37 PASSED in Los Angeles County. One key way that you, our elected officials can respond to the wishes of the City's citizenry is to pass this GMO Free Zone motion. It will help protect Angelenos' rights to grow healthy, non-GMO food throughout the City of L.A. by helping keep local home-grown and community garden-grown crops free of windborne pollen from GMO plants and seeds.

Your help is needed to come to the aid of Angelenos, since political forces at the State and Federal levels have blocked efforts on GMO issues.

Los Angeles is a national trendsetter. We believe Prop. 37 in November 2012 was pivotal to exponentially increasing GMO awareness nationwide. We inspired 95 state GMO labeling bills in 28 states in 2013. The demand for GMO-free food and organics has skyrocketed as well. Yes, there are currently GMO-free zones in counties in CA and Oregon, and the town of Arcata, CA is also a GMO-free zone. But an L.A. GMO-free zone will REALLY be big. It will spark this movement around the country.

The same way people across the nation watched and were widely inspired by the Prop. 37 campaign, they will be watching Los Angeles on the GMO-Free Zone legislation. You have a wonderful opportunity to take the lead now on this issue.

We all thank you in advance for your support to make Los Angeles a GMO-Free Zone.

Sincerely,

Arran Stephens

Co-Founder and Co-CEO

Nature's Path Foods, Inc.

2220 Natures Path Way

Blaine, WA 98230



Danza Mexica Cuauhtémoc Head of Danza, Judith Garcia 1604 ½ Scott Ave Los Angeles, CA 90026 4jthgarcia@gmail.com 213 481-8265

October 20, 2014

To: Mayor Eric Garcetti
City Council President Herb Wesson
Chairman Felipe Fuentes
Chairman Jose Huizar
Chairman Mitch O'Farrell
Los Angeles City Hall
220 North Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Council File 13-1374

Prohibit the Growth of Genetically Modified (GM) Crops within City Limits

#### Councilmember:

Danza Mexica Cuauhtémoc supports a GMO-Free Zone in Los Angeles!

As indigenous people of America we take a political stance against the risk genetically modified organisms (GMOs), particularly genetically modified (GM) corn, pose to the existence of our staple food "Corn" which is essential to our diet and an intricate part of our identity and culture.

Today, more than 90% of the corn grown in the US is genetically modified. Genetically modified corn has high levels of herbicide (glyphosate) residue, produces a toxin called BT in every single cell, is nutrient depleted and contaminates non-GMO corn thru cross pollination. It has been scientifically proven that GMOs are a potential risk to our health and the environment.

Therefore, we need to protect our organic home grown food from genetic contamination in order to provide our communities with a source of non GMO corn not found in our local markets.

This initiative joins and supports the growing national and international movement to limit the spreads of GMO's. Please approve the motion introduced by Councilmembers Koretz and O'Farrell, and seconded by Councilmember Bonin. Please help our community create a GMO-Free Zone in Los Angeles.

It is our responsibility to protect the integrity of seeds for all future generations!

Sincerely,

Danza Mexica Cuauhtémoc Anet Aguiar, Xilonen 1994 protectingourseeds@gmail.com 310 901-4592



October 21, 2014

To: Mayor Eric Garcetti
City Council President Herb Wesson
Chairman Felipe Fuentes
Chairman Jose Huizar
Chairman Mitch O'Farrell
Los Angeles City Hall
220 North Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Council File 13-1374

Prohibit the Growth of Genetically Modified (GM) Crops within City Limits

## Councilmember:

Frente Indígena de Organizaciones Binacionales (FIOB) supports a GMO-Free Zone in Los Angeles!

- 1. A GMO-Free Zone in Los Angeles will protect home gardens, school gardens, community gardens and homegrown food. It will create an area of 502+ square miles (the City footprint) where it is safe to save heirloom vegetable seeds without threat of contamination from genetic modification.
- 2. The long-term impacts of genetic engineering on human health are virtually untested, and there is no transparency of scientific findings. Recent studies in Europe are finding that genetically modified foods may be seriously detrimental to human health.
- 3. A GMO-Free Zone in L.A. will protect vegetable varieties with cultural heritage, or heirloom/historic varieties (for example Native American corn). This initiative helps prevent contamination by genetic modification.
- 4. This initiative stands the potential to have significant long-term impact on food security, because this initiative helps protect the diversity of vegetable plants. And that diversity is desperately needed for humanity's survival in a climate-changed future.

This initiative joins and supports the growing national and international movement to limit the spread of GMOs.

Please approve the motion introduced by Councilmembers Koretz and O'Farrell, and seconded by Councilmember Bonin. Please create a GMO-Free Zone in Los Angeles!

## Sincerely,

Frente Indígena de Organizaciones Binacionales (FIOB) Veronica Chompa, Cordinadora Local de Los Angeles 2858 W 8th St, Los Angeles, CA 90005



October 10, 2014

Mayor Eric Garcetti City Council President Herb Wesson Chairman Felipe Fuentes Chairman Jose Huizar Chairman Mitch O'Farrell

RE: Endorsement: LA GMO-Free Zone Motion, File #13-1374

Dear Mayor Garcetti, President Wesson, Chairmen Fuentes, Huizar and O'Farrell, and Honorable Council Members:

This letter is to endorse the Koretz-O'Farrell motion #13-1374 and its proposition that the City of Los Angeles become a GMO-Free Zone in which genetically modified seeds and plants would nowhere be grown, sold, or distributed. As founder and director of Wild Blue Planet-a health, food safety, and ecological education organization based in the San Fernando Valley since year 2000-I can think of no better measure to ensure this city's environmental integrity, as well as the health and well-being of its residents, visitors, and the consumers of all agricultural foods and products originating in the Los Angeles region.

In addition, the passing of this groundbreaking motion would stand as an example to the eyes of the nation and the world that those who lead and serve our City of Angels are indeed pioneers in their determined push toward creating a sustainable future for all generations...especially the children and young people who depend upon us. Such a decision would be completely in alignment with Wild Blue Planet's dedication to safequarding the very things that sustain humanity: clean food, clean air, clean water, clean soil. GMO's pollute and poison all these vital natural elements, and I empower our Mayor and City Council members to prevent this from happening by creating a GMO-Free Zone in the city we all treasure so very much. Please take this brave step.

Sincerely,





September 30, 2014

Mayor Eric Garcetti

City Council President Herb Wesson

Chairman Felipe Fuentes

Chairman Jose Huizar

Chairman Mitch O'Farrell

Re: Endorsement for LA GMO Free Zone Motion - File #13-1374

Dear Mayor Garcetti, President Wesson, Chairman Fuentes, Chairman Huizar, Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Councilmembers:

On behalf of the Seed Library of Los Angeles, I am writing to express our organization's endorsement of the Koretz-O'Farrell motion #13-1374 to make the City of Los Angeles a GMO-Free Zone with regard to the sale, distribution and growth of GMO plants and seeds.

The Seed Library believes this motion is essential to make Los Angeles safe from the errant pollen of GMO planted crops. We acknowledge that there are no GMO plants currently grown in the city, but we see sales of GMO seeds to farmers declining and believe that seed purveyors will then make home gardeners their target for selling GMO seeds. Because the pollen cannot be controlled, there is no way to grow GMO crops alongside non-GMO crops without polluting the non-GMOs.

We note the Council's frequent position has been for more health for LA's citizens and for greater control over their gardens and the food they eat. This motion is very firmly aligned in these principles. Citizens grow their own food to have nutrition in times of economic down-turn. Citizens also grow food in response to a Federal government and state government that has not demanded GMO-tainted

food to be labeled. Your yes vote in this matter will be seen with approval by the majority of your constituents who have voted for labeling and state they support labeling by a wide margin in poll after poll.

We know that approval of this measure will not cost LA jobs, but in fact will encourage entrepeneurs to explore urban gardening/farming as a way for LA to feed itself and keep our food purchasing money in the community. This measure will solidify confidence in our city as a place to grow good food to feed ourselves and our children.

As members of one of the largest seed libraries in the United States (over 800 members from many of your voting precincts), we believe this measure is essential to our ability to provide the LA Basin with quality, non-compromised seeds for our food. We know this measure will hep protect our seeds and a vast cultural heritage of food plants in our neighborhoods of immigrants. This is vital and it is timely.

If you have questions about our concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Contact: David King, chair@slola.org or 310.722.3656

110

Sincerely,

David King

Founding Chair,

Seed Library of Los Angeles





To: Mayor Eric Garcetti
City Council President Harb Wesson
Chairman Felipe Fuentes
Chairman Jose Huitar
Chairman Mitch O'Farrell
Los Angeles City Hall
220 North Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Additional Comments:

Re: Endorsement for LA GMO-Free Zone Motion File #13-1374	
On behalf of 1744 O1 10 F1A I wish to express our organization of the Koretz-O'Farrell motion #13-1374. This would make the City of Los Angeles a GMO-Free regard to the sale, distribution and growth of GMO plants and seeds.	s support Zone with
Business/Organization/Group VINH 101 TOFU	
Name and Title KEVIN TRAM - DIONER	
Signature Charles	
Street, City & Zip Code 18625 SHERMAN WAY #101	RESEDA.
Telephone Number (818) 996-9779	7122
Website WWW. Vinh Loi Tofu. com	-1
E-Mall Kerinktrone yahoo com	



To: Mayor Eric Garcetti
City Council President Herb Wesson
Chairman Felipe Fuentes
Chairman Jose Huizar
Chairman Mitch O'Farrell
Los Angeles City Hall
220 North Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Po: Endorsement	for LA GMO-Free	Zone Mation-	-Ello #13-137/

On behalf of Mother Nature's Remedy I wish to express our organization's support of the Koretz-O'Farreli motion #13-1374. This would make the City of Los Angeles a GMO-Free Zone with regard to the sale, distribution and growth of GMO plants and seeds.

Business/Organization/Group Mother Nature's Remedy	
Name and Title Donna Cipolla / manager	
Signature DO Cigalan	
street, Gity & Zip Code 17302 Saticoy Street Van Nuys CA	91406
Telephone Number 818: 345: 6337	
Website mather natures remedy. com	
E-Mall Minxmyalama Cyahoo.com	
Date 10/17/14	



Mayor Eric Garcetti 200 N. Spring Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Council File 13-1374

Prohibit the Growth of Genetically Modified (GM) Crops within City Limits

Mayor Garcetti:

The Arroyo Sustainable Economies Community Organization supports a GMO-Free Zone in Los Angeles.

- 1. A GMO-Free Zone in Los Angeles will protect home gardens, school gardens, community gardens and homegrown food. It will create an area of 502+ square miles (the City footprint) where it is safe to save heirloom vegetable seeds without threat of contamination from genetic modification.
- 2. A GMO-Free L.A. would encourage more economic development in urban agriculture in L.A. Local growers and food producers could promote their products as "GMO-Free." It would create local jobs, grow more local produce, and boost the local tax base.
- 3. The long-term impacts of genetic engineering on human health are virtually untested, and there is no transparency of scientific findings. Recent studies in Europe are finding that genetically modified foods may be seriously detrimental to human health.
- 4. Creating a GMO-Free Zone will have no impact on the cost of purchased food. It will not affect the prices of conventional food, prepared food, or food grown outside the L.A. area. A GMO-Free Zone will protect homegrown food, and make it easier for citizens to save seeds for free. It will boost people's ability to be self-sufficient.
- 5. A GMO-Free Zone in L.A. will protect vegetable varieties with cultural heritage, or heirloom/historic varieties (for example Native American corn). This initiative helps prevent contamination by genetic modification.
- 6. Keeping L.A. GMO-Free will help ensure the safety of our bee populations.
- 7. This initiative stands the potential to have significant long-term impact on food security, because this initiative helps protect the diversity of vegetable plants. And that diversity is desperately needed for humanity's survival in a climate-changed future.

Arroyo Sustainable Economies Community Organization ASECO PO BOX #26513 Los Angeles, CA 90026

www.arroyo-seco.org



This initiative joins and supports the growing national and international movement to limit the spread of GMOs.

Please approve the motion introduced by Councilmembers Koretz and O'Farrell, and seconded by Councilmember Bonin. Please create a GMO-Free Zone in Los Angeles!

Sincerely,

darline Christiano Board President



Councilmember Herb J. Wesson, Jr. 200 N. Spring Street, Room 430 Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Council File 13-1374

Prohibit the Growth of Genetically Modified (GM) Crops within City Limits

Councilmember Wesson:

The Arroyo Sustainable Economies Community Organization supports a GMO-Free Zone in Los Angeles.

- A GMO-Free Zone in Los Angeles will protect home gardens, school gardens, community gardens and homegrown food. It will create an area of 502+ square miles (the City footprint) where it is safe to save heirloom vegetable seeds without threat of contamination from genetic modification.
- 2. A GMO-Free L.A. would encourage more economic development in urban agriculture in L.A. Local growers and food producers could promote their products as "GMO-Free." It would create local jobs, grow more local produce, and boost the local tax base.
- The long-term impacts of genetic engineering on human health are virtually untested, and there
  is no transparency of scientific findings. Recent studies in Europe are finding that genetically modified
  foods may be seriously detrimental to human health.
- 4. Creating a GMO-Free Zone will have no impact on the cost of purchased food. It will not affect the prices of conventional food, prepared food, or food grown outside the L.A. area. A GMO-Free Zone will protect homegrown food, and make it easier for citizens to save seeds for free. It will boost people's ability to be self-sufficient.
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- 6. Keeping L.A. GMO-Free will help ensure the safety of our bee populations.
- 7. This initiative stands the potential to have significant long-term impact on food security, because this initiative helps protect the diversity of vegetable plants. And that diversity is desperately needed for humanity's survival in a climate-changed future.

Arroyo Sustainable Economies Community Organization
ASECO PO BOX #26513 Los Angeles, CA 90026
www.arroyo-seco.org



This initiative joins and supports the growing national and international movement to limit the spread of GMOs.

Please approve the motion introduced by Councilmembers Koretz and O'Farrell, and seconded by Councilmember Bonin. Please create a GMO-Free Zone in Los Angeles!

Sincerely,

lanne Christiano Board President

## National Health Federation



October 1, 2014

Mayor Eric Garcetti
City Council President Herb Wesson
Chairman Felipe Fuentes
Chairman Jose Huizar
Chairman Mitch O'Farrell

Re: Endorsement of LA GMO Free Zone Motion - File #13-1374

Dear Mayor Garcetti, President Wesson, Chairman Fuentes, Chairman Huizar, Chairman O'Farrell, and Honorable Council Members:

On behalf of the National Health Federation (NHF), including our many members in Los Angeles and throughout Southern California, I am writing to state our organization's endorsement of the Koretz-O'Farrell motion #13-1374, which would make the City of Los Angeles a GMO-Free Zone with regard to the sale, distribution, and growth of genetically engineered and modified plants and seeds.

The National Health Federation is a 501(c)(4) non-profit, health-freedom organization that was established nearly 60 years ago in 1955. As a primary mission, we are focused on advocating and promoting the basic right to purchase and consume healthy foods and nutritional supplements grown and manufactured without toxic additives, chemicals, or genetically engineered ingredients. The Codex Alimentarius Commission holds international meetings numerous times a year around the Globe as part of its ongoing effort to establish international food and drink standards, which include, incidentally, limits and restrictions upon the global consumer's individual choice and freedoms. As the only health-freedom organization accredited to participate in these important Codex meetings, NHF has attended for nearly twenty years to fight for high standards and protect the global consumer against the excessive influence and self-interest of large multi-national corporations and from near-sighted regulators. From this vantage point, the NHF is well aware that biotechnology companies are looking to advance their agenda of dominating the world food market through the sale of genetically modified foods (GMOs). We are very concerned that this is not in the best interest of the health of humanity.

The National Health Federation, whose administrative headquarters is located in Los Angeles County, has many thousands of members worldwide, with the largest portion residing in Southern California. We are aware that many areas around the World are, in effect, GMO-growing zones. As part of the global picture, and in support of our Los Angeles members and community, the NHF is endorsing the Los Angeles GMO Free Zone measure. We are doing this to help ensure the health freedoms of not only our local members, but to stand up as well for people everywhere who want to protect their right to consume and grow healthy, non-GMO foods.

We urge you to make every effort to support and pass this measure. Thank you!

Sincerely

Joan Gust



3731 Stocker Street Suite 201 Los Angeles, CA 90008

Tel: 323.295.9372 Fax: 323.295.9467 www.chc-inc.org The Honorable Bernard Parks District 8 City Councilmember City of Los Angeles 200 N. Spring Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Council File 13-1374

Prohibit the Growth of Genetically Modified (GM) Crops within

**City Limits** 

Dear Councilmember Parks:

Community Health Councils (CHC) supports a genetically modified organism or GMO-Free Zone in Los Angeles!

As you well know, CHC has a history of health promotion and disease prevention to address diet-related chronic disease. Protections against GMOs represent another strategy to guard against illness until such time as longitudinal studies can determine conclusively that GMOs are harmless to human health.

Meanwhile, as this issue is deliberated, the following points must be weighed:

- A GMO-Free Zone in Los Angeles will protect home, school, and community gardens as well as other homegrown food. It will create an area of 502+ square miles (the City footprint) where it is safe to save heirloom vegetable seeds.
- 2. A GMO-Free L.A. would encourage more economic development in urban agriculture in L.A. Local growers and food producers could promote their products as "GMO-Free." It would create local jobs, generate more local produce, and boost the local tax base. Community food projects funded by the United States Department of Agriculture provided an estimated 2,300 jobs and incubated over 3,600 micro-businesses. Los Angeles has an opportunity to capture federal dollars and other healthy food financing dollars as it moves agriculture activities in the City.
- 3. The long-term impacts of genetic engineering on human health are virtually untested, and there is no transparency of scientific findings. Recent studies in Europe are finding that genetically modified foods may be seriously detrimental to human health. A 2014 study shows that contrary to reassurances from industry and regulators, complete genes including Genetically Modified genes can pass from food into

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Kobayashi, M., Tyson, L., & Abi-Nader, J. (2010). The Activities and Impacts of Community Food Projects 2005-2009, 1–2

human blood.<sup>2</sup> Detailed research conducted as part of a mammalian toxicity studies have revealed alterations in kidney and liver functions that may be the signs of early chronic diet intoxication, possibly explained at least in part by pesticide residues in the GMO feed<sup>3</sup>

- 4. A GMO-Free Zone will protect homegrown food, and make it easier for citizens and farmers to save seeds for free. It will boost resident's ability to be self-sufficient. At the moment prices for seeds are increasing and the number of farmers using seeds from their own harvest has fallen steeply. Amongst other things, companies are resorting to sending out detectives to investigate possible patent infringements and, in the USA, the available range of conventional types of plant breeds such as maize is already strongly reduced.<sup>4</sup>
- 5. A GMO-Free Zone in L.A. will protect vegetable varieties with cultural heritage, or heirloom/historic varieties (for example Native American corn). This initiative helps prevent contamination by genetic modification. Researches have found that GM crops affect the "fitness of other species, population dynamics, ecological roles, and interactions, promoting local extinctions, population explosions, and changes in community structure and function inside and outside agro ecosystems.
- 6. Keeping L.A. GMO-Free will help ensure the safety of our bee populations. A new meta-analysis of neonicotinoids, a pesticide commonly found in GMO seeds/crops, is causing significant damage to a wide range of beneficial invertebrate species and is a key factor in the decline of bees, which pollinate a third of the global food supply.<sup>67</sup>
- 7. This initiative stands the potential to have significant long-term impact on food security, because this initiative helps protect the diversity of vegetable plants. And that diversity is desperately needed for humanity's survival in a climate-changed future. Researchers from the Institute for Independent Impact Assessment in Biotechnology find that the cultivation of genetically engineered plants is closely associated with substantial increases in the amounts of herbicide required. In particular it has been proven that the cultivation of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Spisa k S, Solymosi N, Ittzé s P, Bodor A, Kondor D, et al. (2013) Complete Genes May Pass from Food to Human Blood. PLoS ONE 8(7): e69805. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0069805

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Séralini, G.E., Spiroux de Vendomois, J., Cellier, D., Sultan, C., Buiatti, M., Gallagher, L., Antoniou, M., Dronamraju, K.R., 2009. How subchronic and chronic health effects can be neglected for GMOs, pesticides or chemicals. Int. J. Biol. Sci. 5, 438–443.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> T. Cristoph. 2013. 30 years of genetically engineered plants-20 years of commercial cultivation in the United States: A Critical Assessment. Institute for Independent Impact Assessment in Biotechnology.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Garcia, Maria Alice and Miguel Altieri, (2005), Transgenic Crops: Implications for Biodiversity and Sustainable Agriculture. Bulletin of Science, Technology & Society, p. 339 - See more at: <a href="http://gmo-journal.com/2011/06/17/loss-of-biodiversity-and-genetically-modified-crops/#sthash.N30BYRtH.dpuf">http://gmo-journal.com/2011/06/17/loss-of-biodiversity-and-genetically-modified-crops/#sthash.N30BYRtH.dpuf</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Whitehorn Pr, o'Connor s, Wackers Fl & Goulson D (2012). Neonicotinoid Pesticide Reduces Bumble Bee Colony Growth and Queen Production. Science 1215025 Published online 29 March 2012 [DOI:10.1126/science.1215025].

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> UneP (2010). UNEP Emerging Issues: Global Honey Bee Colony Disorder and Other Threats to Insect Pollinators. United Nations Environment Programme

herbicide-resistant plants leads to a reduction in biodiversity as well as having an effect on soil and plant health.<sup>8</sup>

Community members in South Los Angeles have long been concerned about nutritious food access. However, food composition or what goes into our food is an emerging issue in this community.

We ask that you take these points into consideration when this matter comes before you in City Council. This motion has been introduced by Councilmembers Koretz and O'Farrell, and seconded by Councilmember Bonin. Join with them to create a GMO-Free Zone in Los Angeles!

Sincerely,

Lark Galloway-Gilliam, MPA

**Executive Director** 

Cc: District 9 Councilmember, Curren Price City Council President, Herb Wesson

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> T. Cristoph. 2013. 30 years of genetically engineered plants-20 years of commercial cultivation in the United States: A Critical Assessment. Institute for Independent Impact Assessment in Biotechnology. http://www.testbiotech.org/sites/default/files/TESTBIOTECH%20Cultivation\_GE\_%20plants\_Us.pdf



October 15, 2014

Mayor Eric Garcetti City Council President Herb Wesson Chairman Felipe Fuentes Chairman Jose Huizar Chairman Mitch O'Farrell Hon. Tom La Bonge

Re: Hugo's Endorsement of LA GMO Free Zone Motion - File #13-1374

Dear Mayor, President Wesson, Chairman Fuentes, Chairman Huizar, Chairman O'Farrell, and Councilmember La Bonge:

I am writing to provide Hugo's Restaurants' endorsement of the Koretz-O'Farrell motion #13-1374 to make the City of Los Angeles a GMO-Free Zone with regard to the sale, distribution and growth of GMO plants and seeds.

For decades, we at Hugo's have prided ourselves on providing Angelenos with delicious, creative, quality food. We are located in Studio City, with two other locations adjacent to the City of Los Angeles, in West Hollywood (which opened in 1975, when the area was still Los Angeles,) and Agoura Hills.

Hugo's has a policy of commitment to a sustainable environment, and we are a 99% GMO-free restaurant. For example, when it comes to corn, not only do we procure non-GMO corn, we also find non-GMO cornstarch and ketchup without GMO corn syrup. We spend a tremendous amount of effort to ensure that what we serve is full of healthy, pure, non-GMO ingredients. We would love to be able to source these ingredients locally.

Making the City of Los Angeles a GMO Free Zone would serve our business' interests and help us to fulfill our mission. We urge you to make every effort to support and pass this measure. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Leslie E. Brenner

Owner

Hugo's Restaurants (Hugo's and Hugo's Tacos) Office: 616 N. Detroit, Los Angeles, CA 90036