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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 Councilmembers:

GMO Free USA is a 501c3 nonprofit with over 400,000 members nationally and nearly 7,000 members in the city of Los Angeles. We support the Koretz/O'Farrell Motion and the establishment of a Los Angeles GMO-Free Zone for the following reasons:

- 1. It will protect home, school and community gardens and fruit and vegetable varieties with cultural heritage, or heirloom/historic varieties, from potential cross-pollination from genetically engineered varieties.
- 2. It will protect our bee populations and other important pollinators from the harmful agrichemicals, particularly neonicotinoid class insecticides, used by GMO growers.
- 3. It will encourage the economic development of sustainable and organic urban agriculture in Los Angeles. As awareness of the issue of GMO contamination of non-GMO and organic foods continues to grow, local growers and food producers can promote their products as "GMO-Free" and such products could command premium prices. This would create local jobs and boost the local tax base.
- 4. Though the debate continues, experts agree that there is no consensus on the safety of GMOs. Organizations aligned with the agrichemical/biotech industry often mislead the public with claims of absolute safety. There is no scientific consensus on the safety of genetically engineered foods. For this reason, millions of members of the global medical community support the labeling of GE foods. [1] There have been no human health trials and the long-term impact of these foods on human health is still unknown. Recent studies have found that GE foods may be seriously detrimental to human, animal and environmental health. We have compiled a list of over 1,700 scientific reports and peer-reviewed studies which have found health or environmental harm from genetically engineered crops and their associated pesticides. [2]
- 5. Creating a GMO-Free Zone will have no impact on the cost of food to consumers. It





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will not affect the prices of conventional food, prepared food, or food grown outside the L.A. area.

6. This initiative has the potential to have significant positive long-term impact on food security because it helps protect the diversity of vegetable plants. This 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,

Diana Reeves

Diana Leeves

Founder & Managing Director

**GMO Free USA** 

Citations:

[1] http://gmofreeusa.org/gmos-are-top/there-is-no-consensus-on-the-safety-of-gmos/

[2] http://gmofreeusa.org/gmos-are-top/gmo-science/