

Sept 21, 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**

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

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,

**Zen Honeycutt, Founder Moms Across America**

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