



GMOiNSiDE.ORG

COALITION POWERED BY GREEN AMERICA

September 25, 2014

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

#13-1374

#13-1374

BY

CITY CLERK

2014 SEP 25 PM 2:35

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

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

On behalf of GMO Inside, 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.**

GMOs cannot be grown near organic crops without ruining the organic crops - GMO pollen (in wind pollinated plants like corn and beets) spreads without regard to property lines and contaminates the organic crop. Produce with GMOs cannot be classified as organic, putting the organic farmer at risk for potential liability issues. A similar situation can occur on the margins in bee and insect pollinated crops. Wind pollination destroys the value of organic crops up to 25 miles - the reason we need the buffer of a GMO Free Zone. This very issue dissuades some entrepreneurs from even trying to establish a business.

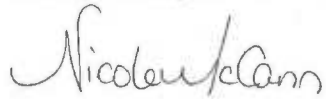
By establishing LA as GMO Free LA, our backyard producers and urban farmers have the edge because their produce will be seen as more reliably GMO free. Grown In Los Angeles would make our local entrepreneurs more profitable and further boost our economy.

GMOs consume significant more herbicides than organically grown produce - something most Angelenos do not want in the neighborhood. Contrary to advertising, actual practice of GMO food production uses more than twice as much herbicide as non-GMO crops. History shows that pesticides contaminate ground water supplies; Los Angeles needs to keep it's ground water safe.

Keeping LA GMO Free will help ensure the safety of our bee populations. A GMO Free LA would strengthen our economy, our food security and put Los Angeles in forefront of American cities on food policy.

Please accept GMO Inside's endorsement of the Koretz-O'Farrell motion #13-1374 to make the City of Los Angeles a GMO-Free Zone.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicole McCann".

Nicole McCann, M.A.
Food Campaigns Director
GMO Inside (powered by Green America)
nmccann@greenamerica.org
202-872-5343



RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
2014 SEP 25 PM 2:35
BY _____
CITY CLERK
DEPUTY

September 25, 2014

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

#13-1374

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

On behalf of Green America, **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.**

GMOs cannot be grown near organic crops without ruining the organic crops - GMO pollen (in wind pollinated plants like corn and beets) spreads without regard to property lines and contaminates the organic crop. Produce with GMOs cannot be classified as organic, putting the organic farmer at risk for potential liability issues. A similar situation can occur on the margins in bee and insect pollinated crops. Wind pollination destroys the value of organic crops up to 25 miles – the reason we need the buffer of a GMO Free Zone. This very issue dissuades some entrepreneurs from even trying to establish a business.

By establishing LA as GMO Free LA, our backyard producers and urban farmers have the edge because their produce will be seen as more reliably GMO free. Grown In Los Angeles would make our local entrepreneurs more profitable and further boost our economy.

GMOs consume significant more herbicides than organically grown produce – something most Angelenos do not want in the neighborhood. Contrary to advertising, actual practice of GMO food production uses more than twice as much herbicide as non-GMO crops. History shows that pesticides contaminate ground water supplies; Los Angeles needs to keep its ground water safe.

Keeping LA GMO Free will help ensure the safety of our bee populations. A GMO Free LA would strengthen our economy, our food security and put Los Angeles in forefront of American cities on food policy.

Please accept Green America's endorsement of the Koretz-O'Farrell motion #13-1374 to make the City of Los Angeles a GMO-Free Zone.

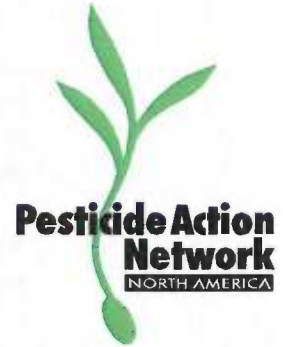
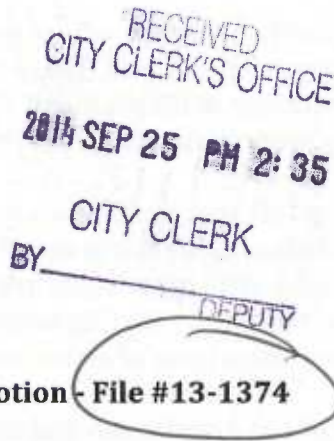
Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd Larsen", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Todd Larsen
Corporate Responsibility Division Director
Green America
toddlarsen@greenamerica.org
(202) 872-5310

September 24, 2014

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



Re: Support 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 Pesticide Action Network North America and our over 100,000 members, including those in the City of Los Angeles, I am writing to express our organization's support for 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 genetically engineered (GE) plants and seeds.

PANNA represents a diverse network of family farmers, farmworkers, beekeepers, and indigenous peoples dedicated to ensuring prosperity and fairness in the food and farming system. This vision puts us at odds with industrial agricultural interests, especially the "Big 6" pesticide manufacturers and genetically engineered seed corporations. So we laud the City of Los Angeles for standing up to these powerful interests and considering prohibitions on the cultivation and sale of genetically engineered seeds and plants.

The City of Los Angeles has a responsibility to stand up for a fair and resilient food system. While these corporations have largely focused their attention on designing commodity crops like corn and soybeans that withstand heavy herbicide applications, they are already looking to expand to markets for specialty crops, including citrus, broccoli, apples and strawberries. The City of Los Angeles, on behalf of the farmers outside the City limits that source food to restaurants, grocery stores, schools, and family dinner tables should take a stand to protect the food they grow by publicly declaring the City as a "GMO-Free Zone".

The City also has a responsibility to protect LA's backyard and community gardeners from the threats of contamination of GE crops, especially if more specialty crops become commercialized. In many cases, the GE crops have contaminated non-GE varieties across the country without the consent of farmers, and through no fault of their own, putting them at economic risk due to lost markets, and under threat of litigation from the Big 6 patent and license holders. The same issues of contamination could play out for urban farmers and gardeners.

Over the past several years, GE contamination has already jeopardized millions of dollars in exports for America farmers, including exports through the Ports of Los

Advancing Alternatives to Pesticides Worldwide

Main Office: 1611 Telegraph Ave, Suite 1200, Oakland, CA 94612 • Ph 510.788.9020

Sacramento Office: 909 12th Street, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.panna.org


Angeles and Long Beach, where goods are shipped to international markets, especially markets in Asia. These countries already have laws on the books that prohibit the sale of GE products. By taking a public stand, Los Angeles is also declaring protections for its port exports and port jobs.

By passing this law, the City of Los Angeles would join other counties across the state, including Lake, Marin and Mendocino that have already placed similar laws on the books, with other cities and counties across the state considering this type of action. Moreover, the City would join over 60 countries around the world that have taken some form of action to label or prohibit the growth of GE crops.

The City of Los Angeles can and should take a strong stand now to protect the best interests of eaters, backyard gardeners, and farmers who source food to the city. Passing the law now will send a clear signal to farmers and gardeners that you want to protect their best interests now, and as the next generation of genetically engineered seeds and crops comes online.

If you have any questions, or would like to speak further, please contact me at 916-588-3100 or ptowers@panna.org.

Sincerely,



Paul Towers
Organizing & Media Director