

LIVEYOGA WELLNESS

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:

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!

As a cancer survivor, LA business and homeowner, I speak for my community when I say, we want, and support a GMO-Free Zone in Los Angeles. Eleven years ago I was diagnosed and treated for breast cancer. In the ensuing years, I have changed my lifestyle and profession to one based on wellness – which includes, not only eating, but also growing, non-GMO foods.

Three of the top 10 causes of death today are considered "lifestyle" diseases: cancer, heart disease and diabetes. In most cases they are completely avoidable, and many cases reversible by making healthy lifestyle, and food choices.

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.

With Urban Farming as the subject of my college thesis, clearly, non-GMO food is a subject near and dear to me. So much so, that over the past year I have converted my urban grass lawn to an edible garden and xeriscape landscape.

Additional Reasons for a GMO-Free Zone include:

- 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.
- 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 help ensure the safety of our bee populations.
- 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.

Again, 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,



Teri Roseman
Executive Director, Founder