



October 2, 2014

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

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

Councilmembers:

We support the GMO-Free Zone in Los Angeles because genetic engineering is a serious threat to sustainability.

Genetically engineered plants are created to work hand in hand with herbicide chemicals; they cannot be grown organically. They are a **detriment to bees and pollinating insects** as well as to the diversity of soil life which makes up alive, healthy, organic soil.

Genetically engineered plants are completely dependent on petrochemical fertilizers. In an era when cheap oil has come to an end and as we face a future where petroleum and petrochemicals will become increasingly scarce, genetically engineered plants **place our food supply at high risk**.

Genetically engineered plant varieties are corporate controlled through elaborate patents. Farmers are prohibited from saving their own seed to grow the next year. The companies which produce genetically engineered seeds are seeking to control the seed supply. This prevents people from growing their own food and saving their own seed. Genetic engineering **prevents people from being self-sufficient**.

Genetically engineered plants cannot be contained. Some of the more popular GM plants, like corn and beets, are wind-pollinated plants. GM pollen carried on the wind **will pollute and destroy** heirloom vegetable plant varieties.

Heirloom vegetable plants are our heritage from generations upon generations of ancestors. The diversity of heirlooms is the answer to human survival in a weird-weather, climate-changed future. We need heirlooms to survive.

Genetically engineered plants are **a threat to human survival**. We don't want them in our city. Seed savers now look to cities as the places to save and preserve precious diversity in heirloom food plant varieties. We need a GMO-Free Zone to support this effort.

Please support self-sufficiency, survival, and sustainability. Please create a GMO-Free Zone in Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

Joanne Poyourow

Peter H. Rood

John Tikotsky

Members of the Board, Environmental Change-Makers

Environmental Change-Makers

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

Councilmembers:

We are writing in support of the GMO-Free Zone in Los Angeles.

We are a small local seed company that grows heirloom vegetable seed within the City of Los Angeles. As part of the "urban agriculture" movement, we are traditional plant breeders. We cultivate heirloom and heritage varieties, and we are developing new plant varieties here in Southern California.

Some plants - corn and beets in particular - send their pollen from plant-to-plant through the wind. This pollen can travel for miles, pollinating plants within a very wide radius of the source. Pollen from genetically engineered corn can travel on the wind to **pollute and destroy** heritage corn varieties.

Genetically modified plants are quite detrimental to the future of our food supply. Genetically modified plants are completely dependent on petrochemical fertilizers and petrochemical herbicides. Genetically modified plants are being developed with a corporate profit objective, not with needed characteristics such as drought tolerance. Genetically modified plants are suspected of significant detrimental impacts on human health. Genetically modified plants are patented and held in the control of a limited few; **they do not serve the broader public interest.**

Heirloom vegetable seeds thrive in chemical-free, organic growing conditions. Heirloom vegetable seeds are "open sourced," available to everyone. Many heirloom vegetable varieties already exist which are **drought tolerant and well adapted** to local growing conditions, to feed people into future generations. GMO pollution could wipe all this out.

A GMO-Free Zone in Los Angeles would create a haven for protecting heirloom vegetable seeds, the future of our food supply.

A GMO-Free Zone in Los Angeles would help small businesses in the urban agriculture movement.

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,

Matt Van Diepen
Co-founder Cityscape Seeds

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