

WILD BLUE PLANET™

October 10, 2014

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

RE: Endorsement: LA GMO-Free Zone Motion, File #13-1374

Dear Mayor Garcetti, President Wesson, Chairmen Fuentes,
Huizar and O'Farrell, and Honorable Council Members:

This letter is to endorse the Koretz-O'Farrell motion #13-1374 and its proposition that the City of Los Angeles become a GMO-Free Zone in which genetically modified seeds and plants would nowhere be grown, sold, or distributed. As founder and director of Wild Blue Planet—a health, food safety, and ecological education organization based in the San Fernando Valley since year 2000—I can think of no better measure to ensure this city's environmental integrity, as well as the health and well-being of its residents, visitors, and the consumers of all agricultural foods and products originating in the Los Angeles region.

In addition, the passing of this groundbreaking motion would stand as an example to the eyes of the nation and the world that those who lead and serve our City of Angels are indeed pioneers in their determined push toward creating a sustainable future for all generations...especially the children and young people who depend upon us. Such a decision would be completely in alignment with Wild Blue Planet's dedication to safeguarding the very things that sustain humanity: clean food, clean air, clean water, clean soil. GMO's pollute and poison all these vital natural elements, and I empower our Mayor and City Council members to prevent this from happening by creating a GMO-Free Zone in the city we all treasure so very much. Please take this brave step.

Sincerely,
Shicana Lynn Allen
Director, Wild Blue Planet

Shicana Allen



To: Mayor Eric Garcetti
City Council President Herb Wesson
Councilmember Felipe Fuentes
Councilmember Jose Huizar
Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell
Los Angeles City Hall
220 North Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Councilmember Curren Price
Councilmember Bernard Parks
Councilmember Gilbert Cedillo

Re: Endorsement for LA GMO-Free Zone Motion—File #13-1374

On behalf of SOUNDSATIONS, I wish to express our organization's support of the Koretz-O'Farrell motion #13-1374. This would make the City of Los Angeles a GMO-Free Zone with regard to the sale, distribution and growth of GMO plants and seeds.

Business/Organization/Group SOUNDSATIONS

Name and Title LEE WILSON/OWNER

Signature 

Address & Zip Code 8701 LA TIJERA BLVD

Telephone Number 310-641-8877

Website SOUNDSATIONSRECORDS.COM

E-Mail SOUNDSATIONSRECORDS@YAHOO.COM

Date 10/15/14

Additional Comments:



To: Mayor Eric Garcetti
 City Council President Herb Wesson
 Councilmember Felipe Fuentes
 Councilmember Jose Huizar
 Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell
 Los Angeles City Hall
 220 North Spring St.
 Los Angeles, CA 90012

Councilmember Curren Price
 Councilmember Bernard Parks
 Councilmember Gilbert Cedillo

Re: Endorsement for LA GMO-Free Zone Motion—File #13-1374

On behalf of TESOURO BOUTIQUE, I wish to express our organization's support of the Koretz-O'Farrell motion #13-1374. This would make the City of Los Angeles a GMO-Free Zone with regard to the sale, distribution and growth of GMO plants and seeds.

Business/Organization/Group TESOURO BOUTIQUE
 Name and Title NINA C. JAMES - OWNER
 Signature *Nina James*
 Address & Zip Code 6205 W. 87th, LA 90045
 Telephone Number 202-696-8169
 Website _____
 E-Mail NINACECILY@gmail.com
 Date 10-10-14

Additional Comments:

October 14, 2014

CHC

Community Health Councils, Inc.



3731 Stocker Street
Suite 201
Los Angeles, CA 90008

Tel: 323.295.9372
Fax: 323.295.9467
www.chc-inc.org

The Honorable Bernard Parks
District 8 City Councilmember
City of Los Angeles
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 Councilmember Parks:

Community Health Councils (CHC) supports a genetically modified organism or
GMO-Free Zone in Los Angeles!

As you well know, CHC has a history of health promotion and disease
prevention to address diet-related chronic disease. Protections against GMOs
represent another strategy to guard against illness until such time as
longitudinal studies can determine conclusively that GMOs are harmless to
human health.

Meanwhile, as this issue is deliberated, the following points must be weighed:

1. A GMO-Free Zone in Los Angeles will protect home, school, and
community gardens as well as other homegrown food. It will create an
area of 502+ square miles (the City footprint) where it is safe to save
heirloom vegetable seeds.
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,
generate more local produce, and boost the local tax base. Community
food projects funded by the United States Department of Agriculture
provided an estimated 2,300 jobs and incubated over 3,600 micro-
businesses.¹ Los Angeles has an opportunity to capture federal dollars
and other healthy food financing dollars as it moves agriculture
activities in the City.
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. A 2014 study shows
that contrary to reassurances from industry and regulators, complete
genes – including Genetically Modified genes – can pass from food into

¹ Kobayashi, M., Tyson, L., & Abi-Nader, J. (2010). The Activities and Impacts of Community Food Projects
2005-2009, 1-2

human blood.² Detailed research conducted as part of a mammalian toxicity studies have revealed alterations in kidney and liver functions that may be the signs of early chronic diet intoxication, possibly explained at least in part by pesticide residues in the GMO feed³

4. A GMO-Free Zone will protect homegrown food, and make it easier for citizens and farmers to save seeds – *for free*. It will boost resident's ability to be self-sufficient. At the moment prices for seeds are increasing and the number of farmers using seeds from their own harvest has fallen steeply. Amongst other things, companies are resorting to sending out detectives to investigate possible patent infringements and, in the USA, the available range of conventional types of plant breeds such as maize is already strongly reduced.⁴
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. Researches have found that GM crops affect the "fitness of other species, population dynamics, ecological roles, and interactions, promoting local extinctions, population explosions, and changes in community structure and function inside and outside agro ecosystems."⁵
6. Keeping L.A. GMO-Free will help ensure the safety of our bee populations. A new meta-analysis of neonicotinoids, a pesticide commonly found in GMO seeds/crops, is causing significant damage to a wide range of beneficial invertebrate species and is a key factor in the decline of bees, which pollinate a third of the global food supply.⁶⁷
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. Researchers from the Institute for Independent Impact Assessment in Biotechnology find that the cultivation of genetically engineered plants is closely associated with substantial increases in the amounts of herbicide required. In particular it has been proven that the cultivation of

² Spisák S, Solymosi N, Ittész P, Bodor A, Kondor D, et al. (2013) Complete Genes May Pass from Food to Human Blood. PLoS ONE 8(7): e69805. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0069805

³ Séralini, G.E., Spiroux de Vendomois, J., Cellier, D., Sultan, C., Buiatti, M., Gallagher, L., Antoniou, M., Dronamraju, K.R., 2009. How subchronic and chronic health effects can be neglected for GMOs, pesticides or chemicals. Int. J. Biol. Sci. 5, 438–443.

⁴ T. Cristoph. 2013. 30 years of genetically engineered plants-20 years of commercial cultivation in the United States: A Critical Assessment. Institute for Independent Impact Assessment in Biotechnology.

⁵ Garcia, Maria Alice and Miguel Altieri, (2005), Transgenic Crops: Implications for Biodiversity and Sustainable Agriculture. Bulletin of Science, Technology & Society, p. 339 - See more at: <http://gmo-journal.com/2011/06/17/loss-of-biodiversity-and-genetically-modified-crops/#sthash.N30BYRtH.dpuf>

⁶ Whitehorn Pr, o'Connor s, Wackers FI & Goulson D (2012). Neonicotinoid Pesticide Reduces Bumble Bee Colony Growth and Queen Production. Science 1215025 Published online 29 March 2012 [DOI:10.1126/science.1215025].

⁷ UneP (2010). UNEP Emerging Issues: Global Honey Bee Colony Disorder and Other Threats to Insect Pollinators. United Nations Environment Programme

herbicide-resistant plants leads to a reduction in biodiversity as well as having an effect on soil and plant health.⁸

Community members in South Los Angeles have long been concerned about nutritious food access. However, food composition or what goes into our food is an emerging issue in this community.

We ask that you take these points into consideration when this matter comes before you in City Council. This motion has been introduced by Councilmembers Koretz and O'Farrell, and seconded by Councilmember Bonin. Join with them to create a GMO-Free Zone in Los Angeles!

Sincerely,



Lark Galloway-Gilliam, MPA
Executive Director

Cc: District 9 Councilmember, Curren Price
City Council President, Herb Wesson

⁸ T. Cristoph. 2013. 30 years of genetically engineered plants-20 years of commercial cultivation in the United States: A Critical Assessment. Institute for Independent Impact Assessment in Biotechnology.
http://www.testbiotech.org/sites/default/files/TESTBIOTECH%20Cultivation_GE_%20plants_US.pdf



To: Mayor Eric Garcetti
City Council President Herb Wesson
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Los Angeles City Hall
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Los Angeles, CA 90012

Councilmember Curren Price
Councilmember Bernard Parks
Councilmember Gilbert Cedillo

Re: Endorsement for LA GMO-Free Zone Motion—File #13-1374

On behalf of _____ Jeanette Ryan, DC _____, I wish to express our organization's support of the Koretz-O'Farrell motion #13-1374. This would make the City of Los Angeles a GMO-Free Zone with regard to the sale, distribution and growth of GMO plants and seeds.

Business/Organization/Group _____ Jeanette Ryan, DC _____

Name and Title _____ Jeanette Ryan, DC owner _____

Signature _____


Address & Zip Code _____ 1448 15th St., Ste. 105 Santa Monica, CA 90404 _____

Telephone Number _____ 310 395 3653 _____

Website _____

E-Mail _____ jeanetteryandc@verizon.net _____

Date _____ 10/7/14 _____

Additional Comments: Saving the unaltered genetic information of plants and their seeds may very Well mean the survival of our next generation. Please endorse this very important motion.

Thank you.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED



October 15, 2014

Mayor Eric Garcetti
City Council President Herb Wesson
Chairman Felipe Fuentes
Chairman Jose Huizar
Chairman Mitch O'Farrell
Hon. Tom La Bonge

Re: Hugo's Endorsement of LA GMO Free Zone Motion - File #13-1374

Dear Mayor, President Wesson, Chairman Fuentes, Chairman Huizar, Chairman O'Farrell, and Councilmember La Bonge:

I am writing to provide Hugo's Restaurants' 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.

For decades, we at Hugo's have prided ourselves on providing Angelenos with delicious, creative, quality food. We are located in Studio City, with two other locations adjacent to the City of Los Angeles, in West Hollywood (which opened in 1975, when the area was still Los Angeles,) and Agoura Hills.

Hugo's has a policy of commitment to a sustainable environment, and we are a 99% GMO-free restaurant. For example, when it comes to corn, not only do we procure non-GMO corn, we also find non-GMO cornstarch and ketchup without GMO corn syrup. We spend a tremendous amount of effort to ensure that what we serve is full of healthy, pure, non-GMO ingredients. We would love to be able to source these ingredients locally.

Making the City of Los Angeles a GMO Free Zone would serve our business' interests and help us to fulfill our mission. We urge you to make every effort to support and pass this measure. Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leslie E. Brenner", written in a cursive style.

Leslie E. Brenner
Owner

Hugo's Restaurants (Hugo's and Hugo's Tacos)
Office: 616 N. Detroit, Los Angeles, CA 90036



September 25, 2014

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

Food & Water Watch urges you to support Council File 13-1374, the Koretz-O'Farrell GMO Free LA Motion, which would prohibit the planting, growth, sale and distribution of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) within the City of Los Angeles.

Food & Water Watch works to ensure the food, water and fish we consume is safe, accessible and sustainable. So we can all enjoy and trust in what we eat and drink, we help people take charge of where their food comes from, keep clean, affordable, public tap water flowing freely to our homes, protect the environmental quality of oceans, force government to do its job protecting citizens, and educate about the importance of keeping shared resources under public control.

We believe Californians have a fundamental right to make informed choices about the food they eat, and the food they feed to their children. GMOs represent a threat to consumer health, as they remain largely untested, and the FDA's regulatory assessment process regarding GMOs is voluntary. Furthermore, by developing crops that are resistant to pesticides, farmers are encouraged to use greater doses of toxic pesticides on crops, which work their way into waterways or onto dinner plates. There are too many unknowns with GMOs, which is why over fifty countries, including the European Union, China, and Japan, all require GMO food labels.

Los Angeles has made many great strides in allowing urban agriculture. However, the security of a budding new urban agriculture industry could be threatened by the cross-contamination of GMO pollen to locally grown non-GMO crops. By securing Los Angeles' 502 square miles as a GMO Free Zone, the city can better protect its urban farms from unintentional contamination. Los Angeles has also worked to secure rights for its pollinators (bees). Not only do some GMO crops require more pesticides which harm pollinators, some GMO crops are engineered to poison insects on contact. These varieties of plants represent an unequivocal threat to Los Angeles' pollinators, without which urban agriculture will not prosper.

When Los Angeles speaks, the country listens. When Los Angeles acts, the country follows. It is our belief that Los Angeles needs to take a leadership role on this issue to protect its residents and urban farms, and to set an example, not only to the state, but to the nation. Therefore, we urge you to support the Koretz-O'Farrell motion for a GMO Free LA.

Sincerely,

Walker Foley, Program Associate
Food & Water Watch | 323-843-8448