

# 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 [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:



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](http://www.chc-inc.org)

October 14, 2014

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.<sup>1</sup> 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

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

human blood.<sup>2</sup> 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 feed<sup>3</sup>

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.<sup>4</sup>
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."<sup>5</sup>
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.<sup>6</sup>
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

<sup>2</sup> 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

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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>

<sup>6</sup> 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].

<sup>7</sup> 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.<sup>8</sup>

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,

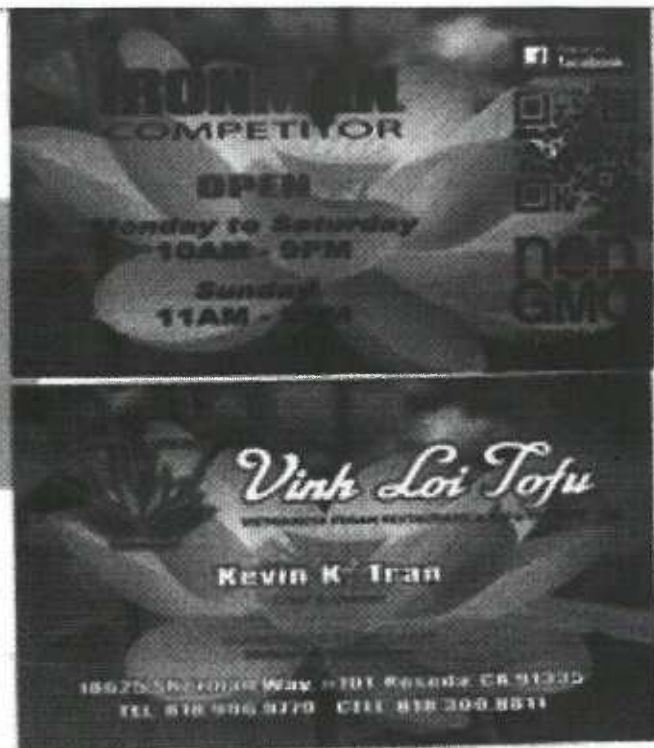


Lark Galloway-Gilliam, MPA  
Executive Director

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

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<sup>8</sup> 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](http://www.testbiotech.org/sites/default/files/TESTBIOTECH%20Cultivation_GE_%20plants_US.pdf)



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

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

On behalf of VINH LOI TOFU, 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 VINH LOI TOFU  
Name and Title KEVIN TRAN - OWNER  
Signature [Signature]  
Street, City & Zip Code 18625 SHERMAN WAY #101 RESEDA,  
Telephone Number (818) 996-9779 91335  
Website www.VinhLoiTofu.com  
E-Mail kevin.k.tran@yahoo.com  
Date 10/17/14

Additional Comments:

3 NOV 15 4:14 PM



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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

RECEIVED  
OCT 15 2014



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 dark ink, appearing to read "Leslie E. Brenner", is written over a faint, circular stamp.

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**

National Health Federation



Your Voice for Health Freedom™

SINCE 1955

October 1, 2014

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

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

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

On behalf of the National Health Federation (NHF), including our many members in Los Angeles and throughout Southern California, I am writing to state our organization's endorsement of the Koretz-O'Farrell motion #13-1374, which would make the City of Los Angeles a GMO-Free Zone with regard to the sale, distribution, and growth of genetically engineered and modified plants and seeds.

The National Health Federation is a 501(c)(4) non-profit, health-freedom organization that was established nearly 60 years ago in 1955. As a primary mission, we are focused on advocating and promoting the basic right to purchase and consume healthy foods and nutritional supplements grown and manufactured without toxic additives, chemicals, or genetically engineered ingredients. The Codex Alimentarius Commission holds international meetings numerous times a year around the Globe as part of its ongoing effort to establish international food and drink standards, which include, incidentally, limits and restrictions upon the global consumer's individual choice and freedoms. As the only health-freedom organization accredited to participate in these important Codex meetings, NHF has attended for nearly twenty years to fight for high standards and protect the global consumer against the excessive influence and self-interest of large multi-national corporations and from near-sighted regulators. From this vantage point, the NHF is well aware that biotechnology companies are looking to advance their agenda of dominating the world food market through the sale of genetically modified foods (GMOs). We are very concerned that this is not in the best interest of the health of humanity.

The National Health Federation, whose administrative headquarters is located in Los Angeles County, has many thousands of members worldwide, with the largest portion residing in Southern California. We are aware that many areas around the World are, in effect, GMO-growing zones. As part of the global picture, and in support of our Los Angeles members and community, the NHF is endorsing the Los Angeles GMO Free Zone measure. We are doing this to help ensure the health freedoms of not only our local members, but to stand up as well for people everywhere who want to protect their right to consume and grow healthy, non-GMO foods.

We urge you to make every effort to support and pass this measure. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Scott C. Tips, J.D., President



Councilmember Herb J. Wesson, Jr.  
200 N. Spring Street, Room 430  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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

Councilmember Wesson:

The Arroyo Sustainable Economies Community Organization supports 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.

Arroyo Sustainable Economies Community Organization  
ASECO PO BOX #26513 Los Angeles, CA 90026  
[www.arroyo-seco.org](http://www.arroyo-seco.org)



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,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Janine Christiano  
Board President

Arroyo Sustainable Economies Community Organization  
ASECO PO BOX #26513 Los Angeles, CA 90026  
[www.arroyo-seco.org](http://www.arroyo-seco.org)



October 2, 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**

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



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

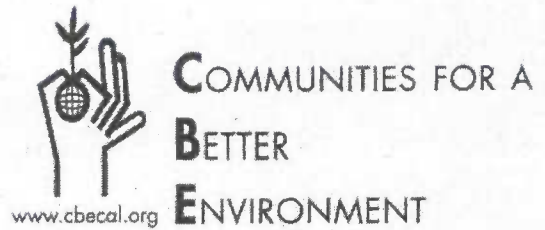
Peter H. Rood

John Tikotsky

Members of the Board, Environmental Change-Makers

**Environmental Change-Makers**

6700 West 83<sup>rd</sup>, Los Angeles, CA 90045 • (310) 670-4777 • [www.EnviroChangeMakers.org](http://www.EnviroChangeMakers.org)



October 17, 2014

Honorable Councilmembers  
Los Angeles City Hall  
200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

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

Dear Honorable Councilmembers:

On behalf of Communities for a Better Environment (CBE), we write to express our strong support for the motion introduced by Councilmembers Paul Koretz and Mitch O'Farrell to create a "GMO-Free Zone" within the City of Los Angeles ("Motion").

CBE is a leading statewide environmental health and justice organization. Our mission is to build power within California's communities of color and low-income communities to achieve environmental justice by preventing and reducing pollution and building green, healthy and sustainable communities and environments.

CBE strongly agrees with the reasons outlined in the Motion explaining the necessity of a GMO-Free Los Angeles, such as destruction of biodiversity, colony collapse disorder, and GMO food consumption safety concerns. Genetically modified crops pose grave human and environmental health risks. One of the greatest dangers, often overlooked in the GMO discourse, is the increased use of synthetic herbicides and pesticides associated with GM crops, which expose farm workers and communities to debilitating and fatal diseases. Latinos disproportionately bear these severe health risks, since they comprise the great majority of farm workers in our state and nation. Children whose parents toil in the fields are particularly in peril, as they are likely the most pesticide-exposed subgroup in the country.<sup>1</sup> The Motion before the Council is a significant step toward safeguarding the health of the public and environment.

There is growing data showing that the rise of genetically engineered crops necessarily results in increased synthetic herbicide and pesticide use and health risks. A major consequence

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<sup>1</sup> Adrianna Quintero-Somaini and Mayra Quirindongo, *Hidden Danger: Environmental Health Threats in the Latino Community, A Report of the Natural Resource Defense Council*, at Ch. 4 (Oct. 2004). Available at: <http://www.nrdc.org/health/effects/latino/english/contents.asp>.

**Southern California Office:**  
6325 Pacific Blvd, Suite 300  
Huntington Park, CA 90255  
323.826.9771

**Wilmington Field Office:**  
116 E. Pacific Coast Highway, Suite 200  
Wilmington, CA 90744  
310-952-9097

**Northern California Office:**  
1904 Franklin Street, Suite 600  
Oakland, CA 94612  
510-302-0430

of the widespread use of GM crops, and the herbicides and pesticides they were developed to withstand, is the evolution of weeds and insects now resistant to these chemicals. Crops genetically engineered to withstand herbicides emerged in 1996, making it possible for farmers to use a broad-spectrum herbicide, glyphosate (the active ingredient in Monsanto's Roundup).<sup>2</sup> As scientists warned early on, glyphosate-resistant weeds quickly developed, requiring greater quantities of herbicides be used on crops. A similar pattern emerged with insect pests.<sup>3</sup> A recent study calculating the impact of resistant crop varieties over a 16-year period concluded that GE crops has brought about "substantial increases in the number and volume" of herbicides and pesticides applied since GE crops were introduced.<sup>4</sup>

The people most directly exposed to the risks of herbicides and pesticides are those who live near or work in farms. Because over 85% of farm workers in the U.S., and almost 100% of farm workers in California, are Latino, this problem is of particular concern to Latino communities.<sup>5</sup> Studies have found that farm workers have elevated risks of certain kinds of cancer, Parkinson's disease, neurological effects, reproductive and developmental disorders, and increased respiratory disease due to pesticide exposure.<sup>6</sup> There is also reported "evidence of associations between parental or infant exposures to pesticides and childhood brain tumors, leukemia, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, sarcoma, and Wilm's tumor[.]" as well as birth defects.<sup>7</sup> A longitudinal birth cohort study examining the effect of pesticides on the health of farm workers' children in the City of Salinas found that children with mothers with high levels of pesticide exposure are at great risk for neurodevelopment problems, such as poor reflexes, pervasive developmental disorder, hyperactivity, and lower IQs.<sup>8</sup> A leading researcher in children's environmental health, Dr. Philip Landrigan, equated the findings of the Salinas study with research findings on the effects of lead on children, which resulted in banning lead-based paint throughout the country decades ago.<sup>9</sup>

Despite the severe health risks posed by pesticides and herbicides to farm workers and their communities, the industry had responded to resistant weeds and insect pests by developing more potent, and dangerous, herbicides and pesticides. Indeed, the EPA very recently authorized a new toxic herbicide combination, "Enlist Duo," manufactured by Dow AgroSciences, a

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<sup>2</sup> Charles M. Benbrook, *Impacts of genetically engineered crops on pesticide use in the U.S. -- the first sixteen years*, Environmental Sciences Europe (Sept. 28, 2012). Available at: <http://www.enveurope.com/content/24/1/24>.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> *See id.*

<sup>5</sup> Quintero-Somaini & Quirindongo, *supra*, at 38.

<sup>6</sup> Susan Kegley, PhD, *The Health Costs of Our Food Production System: Pesticide Exposure and Effects on Farmers, Farm Workers, and Rural Residents*, Physicians for Social Responsibility. Available at: <http://www.psr.org/environment-and-health/environmental-health-policy-institute/responses/the-health-costs-of-our-food-production-system.html>; *see also*, Quintero-Somaini & Quirindongo, *supra*, at 39-43; *id.* at 43 ("One such study, by the Cancer Registry of Central California, found that Hispanics employed as farmworkers had a 59 to 69 percent greater risk of stomach, cervical, and uterine cancer, and of some leukemias, than other Hispanics in California") (citing P.K. Mills and S. Kwong, *Cancer Incidence in the United Farmworkers of America (UFW), 1987-1997*, Cancer Registry of Central California (2001)).

<sup>7</sup> *See* Quintero-Somaini & Quirindongo, *supra*, at 39.

<sup>8</sup> Freinkel, Susan. *Warning Signs: How Pesticides Harm the Young Brain*, The Nation, March 11, 2014. Available at: <http://www.thenation.com/article/178804/warning-signs-how-pesticides-harm-young-brain#>.

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

subsidiary of Dow Chemical Company, to be used on GM crops resistant to glyphosate.<sup>10</sup> The new combination contains the herbicide 2,4-D,<sup>11</sup> which is notorious for causing non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, gastric, and other forms of cancer in farm workers chronically exposed to 2,4-D.<sup>12</sup> In approving this new herbicide combination, the EPA acknowledged that 2,4-D use will dramatically increase, which "could [then] result in the spread of weeds resistant to 2,4-D."<sup>13</sup> Thus, it is only a matter of time before GM crops require more powerful and increased quantities of chemicals, putting farm workers and their children at further risk of suffering potential lifelong and irreversible health consequences. It is an unconscionable practice and vicious cycle in which Latinos bear a deadly burden.

The City of Los Angeles has made recent strides in developing and supporting innovative sustainability policies. A City ordinance pursuant to the Motion will further ensure a healthy and sustainable Los Angeles by, among other things, protecting Angelenos from exposure to pesticide residues on food. The Motion is also a necessary policy step to halt the use of dangerous crop chemicals in our state and throughout the country. By passing the Motion, the City can help lead the nation toward policies that develop ecologically-based farming systems with minimal pesticide use, that are both economically sound and serve the public's health and welfare.

Accordingly, CBE strongly supports a GMO-Free Zone in the City of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

Gladys Limón  
Staff Attorney

Bahram Fazeli  
Policy Director

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<sup>10</sup> Environmental Working Group, Press Release, *EPA Ignores Public Outcry, Approves Dangerous Weed Killer*, Oct. 15, 2014. Available at: <http://www.ewg.org/release/epa-ignores-public-outcry-approves-dangerous-weed-killer>

<sup>11</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency, Registration of Enlist Duo. Available at: <http://www2.epa.gov/ingredients-used-pesticide-products/registration-enlist-duo#decision>.

<sup>12</sup> See Paul K. Mills and Richard C. Yang, *Agricultural exposures and gastric cancer risk in Hispanic farm workers in California*. Environ. Res. 104 (2007); Environmental Working Group, Press Release, "Citing Health Risks, Doctors and Scientists Urge Congress to Reject Potent Herbicide Mix for Genetically Engineered Crops, July 23, 2014. Available at: <http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/press-releases/3321/citing-health-risks-doctors-and-scientists-urge-congress-to-reject-potent-herbicide-mix-for-genetically-engineered-crops#>.

<sup>13</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency, Registration of Enlist Duo. Available at: <http://www2.epa.gov/ingredients-used-pesticide-products/registration-enlist-duo#decision>.

## SAINT JEROME CHURCH

5550 THORNBURN STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90045-2141  
(310) 348-8212 FAX (310) 417-3577

September 21, 2014

Members of Los Angeles City Council  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, California,

**Re: Council File 13-1374**

**Prohibit the Growth of Genetically Modified (GM) Crops within City Limits**

Councilmember:

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. Contamination and pollution are among the highest in the poorer communities, which is an injustice that we as Catholics need to address more of.
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. If everyone had a garden we could have enough food to feed the poor, or at least build a community to encourage that kind of thinking, which is what Catholic teaching is all about.
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. Children in the U.S. are experiencing more allergies than ever before. We, as Christians, need to fight injustice when we see wealthy Corporations avoiding any type of scrutiny while continuing to expose everyone to chemicals/pesticides that they themselves have no clue as to its dangers or consequence to the people and the planet.
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. For those who are homeless and live below the poverty line, this could be a way for the church to unite and help this community get back on its feet.

**SAINT JEROME CHURCH**

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6. Keeping L.A. GMO-Free will help ensure the safety of our bee populations. It will be the poor and vulnerable who will be the ones most likely to suffer in the future from the lack of certain fruits in their diet, thereby resulting in major health issues and possible death.

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.

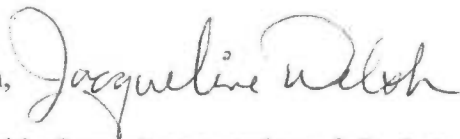
Since we represent the Church and Jesus teachings in caring for the poor, vulnerable and exploited, this initiative would be a step in the right direction in regards to our future generation and the planet in which they are to inherit. We as Church members want to ensure that we will leave a secure food source and a healthy planet in which all those in the future will be able to lead a healthy and sustainable life.

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,

Jacqueline Welsh,



Creation Sustainable Committee member of St. Jerome's Catholic Church, Los Angeles Diocese.



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Director

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Winter@TheRiverProject.org

**The RIVER  
PROJECT**

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

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

On behalf of THE RIVER PROJECT 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 THE RIVER PROJECT

Name and Title MELANIE WINTER, DIRECTOR

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address & Zip Code 3912 LAUREL CANYON #208 Studio City 91604

Telephone Number 818-980-9660

Website theriverproject.org

E-Mail Winter@theriverproject.org

Date 10.5.14

Additional Comments:

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September 30, 2014

Mayor Eric Garcetti

City Council President Herb Wesson

Chairman Felipe Fuentes

Chairman Jose Huizar

Chairman Mitch O'Farrell

Re: Endorsement 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 the Seed Library of Los Angeles, 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.

The Seed Library believes this motion is essential to make Los Angeles safe from the errant pollen of GMO planted crops. We acknowledge that there are no GMO plants currently grown in the city, but we see sales of GMO seeds to farmers declining and believe that seed purveyors will then make home gardeners their target for selling GMO seeds. Because the pollen cannot be controlled, there is no way to grow GMO crops alongside non-GMO crops without polluting the non-GMOs.

We note the Council's frequent position has been for more health for LA's citizens and for greater control over their gardens and the food they eat. This motion is very firmly aligned in these principles. Citizens grow their own food to have nutrition in times of economic down-turn. Citizens also grow food in response to a Federal government and state government that has not demanded GMO-tainted

food to be labeled. Your yes vote in this matter will be seen with approval by the majority of your constituents who have voted for labeling and state they support labeling by a wide margin in poll after poll.

We know that approval of this measure will not cost LA jobs, but in fact will encourage entrepreneurs to explore urban gardening/farming as a way for LA to feed itself and keep our food purchasing money in the community. This measure will solidify confidence in our city as a place to grow good food to feed ourselves and our children.

As members of one of the largest seed libraries in the United States (over 800 members from many of your voting precincts), we believe this measure is essential to our ability to provide the LA Basin with quality, non-compromised seeds for our food. We know this measure will help protect our seeds and a vast cultural heritage of food plants in our neighborhoods of immigrants. This is vital and it is timely.

If you have questions about our concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Contact: David King, [chair@slola.org](mailto:chair@slola.org) or 310.722.3656

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David King', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David King

Founding Chair,

Seed Library of Los Angeles