



May 14, 2014

VIA Email and USPS

The Honorable Herb J. Wesson Jr., Chair
Rules, Elections & Intergovernmental Relations Committee
City Council
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
councilmember.wesson@lacity.org

**Re: SB 1381 (Noreen Evans) / Genetically Engineered Food;
Council File 14-0002-S31**

Dear Chairman Wesson, and Councilmembers LaBonge and Huizar,

On behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity and our 775,000 members and supporters across the U.S, including the City of Los Angeles, we urge the Rules, Elections & Intergovernmental Relations Committee to pass the resolution of Councilman Paul Koretz in support of SB 1381, authored by Senator Noreen Evans in support of food labeling for genetically engineered foods.

SB 1381 is a common-sense bill that will help consumers make informed choices about their food. It simply requires labels letting consumers know if foods are genetically modified. Genetically engineered food is a plant or meat product that has had its DNA artificially altered in a laboratory by genes from other plants, animals, viruses, or bacteria. This type of genetic alteration is not found in nature and is experimental.

Genetic engineering has been associated with biodiversity loss, an overall increase in pesticide use, the emergence of super weeds, and the unintentional contamination of conventional and organic crops. There are also serious concerns about the safety of genetically engineered food, which has not been proven safe in an absence of long-term health studies. A growing body of peer-reviewed studies has linked these foods to allergies, organ problems, and other health problems.

In California, like most of the county, there are no requirements to inform consumers if their food contains genetically modified food. Between 40-70% of foods in grocery stores in California contain some genetically engineered ingredients, but we don't know the exact details because there are no labeling requirements.

It's time for the City of Los Angeles to also help support the rights of consumers to know what they eat. Californians deserve the right to know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Evans". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'J'.

Jonathan Evans

cc (via email):

Paul Habib, Chief of Staff to Councilmember Jose Huizar, Paul.Habib@lacity.org

Councilmember Tom Labonge, tom.labonge@lacity.org

Andy Shrader, Deputy of Environmental Affairs & Sustainability to

Councilmember Paul Koretz, andy.shrader@lacity.org

Legislative Analyst, Erika Pulst, Erika.Pulst@lacity.org