

MAR 22 2013

RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

13-0002-541

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, currently pending before the United States Senate is the Senate Continuing Resolution spending bill, which contains a "Farmer Assurance Provision" (Sec. 735), also known as the "Monsanto Protection Act," which would strip federal courts of their authority to halt the sale and planting of illegal and potentially hazardous genetically modified (GMO) crops; and

WHEREAS, if passed, the "Monsanto Protection Act" would mandate the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to allow continued planting of any GMO crop currently under court review for their potentially hazardous effects to human and environmental health; and

WHEREAS, according to various legal experts the "Monsanto Protection Act" would create a precedent-setting limitation on judicial review and is a dangerous assault on fundamental federal and judicial safeguards; and

WHEREAS, it is widely believed that the "Monsanto Protection Act" is a response to recent successful lawsuits filed by various farmers to prevent the sale, distribution and cultivation of GMO sugarbeets and GMO alfalfa, which led to a court mandate that prevented further planting while the USDA finalized full environment reviews; and

WHEREAS, if passed, the Monsanto Protection Act would eliminate federal agency oversight to protect farmers, consumers and the environment from potential harms caused by unapproved biotech crops;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that upon the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2013-2014 Federal Legislative Program OPPOSITION to Section 735 of HR 933, the Department of Defense, Military Construction, and Veterans Affairs, and Full Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013, also known as the Famer Assurance Provision or the Monsanto Protection Act, and any similar legislation which would strip federal courts of their authority to halt the sale and planting of illegal and potentially hazardous genetically modified crops.

PRESENTED BY Paul Koretz
PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY Joe Hiza

ORIGINAL

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JSB [Signature]