



Keeping Northwest California wild since 1977

May 16, 2014

Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Enact the No GMO Agriculture Ordinance

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing to urge your passage of this ordinance for the following reasons:

- Supporting our organic and other non-chemical farmers will result in ever more diversity and production of healthy foods at lower prices people on fixed incomes can afford because the farmers need not deal with the interference or fear of same from the herbicides, or companies, that are generally associated with GMO crops, like Round-up resistant wheat and alfalfa, for instance.
- Humboldt will join Mendocino, Trinity, Marin and Santa Cruz counties, and perhaps Sonoma, in creating a lucrative food zone that will attract innovative farmers, again promoting diversity, quantities and lowered prices.
- Ensuring non-GMO protects our ground and surface waters and soils from chemical pollution, while healthy non-GMO farming improves natural resources
- GMO's are now being developed which are tolerant of way more dangerous poisons, such as 2,4D and Dicamba, etc.
- GMOs induce super-weeds resistant to the herbicides, resulting in a vicious cycle of resorting to ever-more potent poisons, and invasion of these weeds onto farms.
- Crops endowed with GMO systemic Bt induce resistance in a wide variety of insects to Bt, which renders this naturally occurring pesticide useless to organic farmers.
- All these herbicides persist, migrate, and drift, to some extent, and all have toxicity to a wide variety of plants and animals, including soil and aquatic organisms, and us.

Environmental Protection Information Center

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- The Farm Bureau's opposition is based on a reluctance to close any options, but allowing GMO agriculture will threaten to foreclose our major agricultural industry, whereas this ordinance protects that industry.

- The criticism that a ban will either be unenforceable or have no teeth should not prevent enacting some legal deterrent, especially when it appears to be functioning in other similarly situated counties.

- This ordinance in no way restricts GMOs in other situations where GMOs pose no public threats, like medical or research facilities.

- There is overwhelming popular support for this ordinance, reflecting the dominance of healthy agriculture in our county, obviating the need to subject it to an election, except to satisfy the objections of a small segment of special interests.

The Environmental Protection Information Center urges the Board of Supervisors to enact the No GMO Agriculture Ordinance.

Sincerely,

Natalynne DeLapp