

CLARK COUNTY RESOLUTION TO ADOPT GMO LABEL LAW

WHEREAS, genetically modified organisms—commonly known as GMOs—are bacteria, viruses, plants, animals and other organisms that scientists genetically modify in the laboratory with DNA from other bacteria, viruses, plants, animals or other organisms;

WHEREAS, companies that genetically modify organisms obtain patents for the organisms that their scientists genetically modify;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Patent Office issues patents for genetically modified organisms because GMOs are substantially different than their non-GMO counterparts;

WHEREAS, companies that genetically modify organisms run their own safety tests with no governmental oversight;

WHEREAS, no company runs GMO safety test for more than 90 days, and in some cases, tests run as short as two weeks;

WHEREAS, many consumers have safety concerns because they believe the GMO safety tests are too cursory and too brief;

WHEREAS, no expert consensus has, in a dispositive manner, proven that GMOs are completely safe for consumers to eat;

WHEREAS, no expert consensus has, in a dispositive manner, proven that GMOs pose health risks to consumers;

WHEREAS, Clark County residents have no wish to unwittingly participate in an ongoing science experiment to determine—after the fact—whether the food they eat is safe;

WHEREAS, In June 2013, the EPA doubled the minimum acceptable level of the herbicide, glyphosate, which is the active ingredient in “Round-Up,” the world’s best-selling weed killer, which is commonly used on the fruits and vegetables we eat. Based on the EPA policy change, farmers can now spray twice as much of the weed-killer, glyphosate;

WHEREAS, many citizens in Clark County are alarmed that pesticide companies grow our food crops;

WHEREAS, companies that genetically modify organisms typically used increased levels of insecticides, herbicides and fungicides on GMO crops;

WHEREAS, the ever-increasing use of pesticides may cause adverse health events; glyphosate has been found in children's urine at concentrations ten times the legal limit for drinking water, and some people believe glyphosate exposure causes adverse health events in including obesity, reproductive problems, mental illness, and cancer;

WHEREAS, more than 60 countries around the world have imposed significant restrictions or outright bans on the production and sale of GMO products, including China, Japan, Australia, and the E.U.

WHEREAS, some people believe that high fructose corn syrup, made from genetically modified corn, may be linked to childhood illness and obesity;

WHEREAS, GMO crops may pose a threat to crop biodiversity with resistant superweeds taking over farmlands;

WHEREAS, the viruses used to modify the DNA in GMOs may mutate and combine with viruses in soil, the combination of which, in a worst-case scenario, may cause another famine the likes of which struck Ireland in the 1800s.

WHEREAS, GMO crops, and the accompanying use of pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides may be linked to "colony collapse disorder," which poses risks to Clark County bees and beehives;

WHEREAS, food manufacturers and other special interests groups spent over \$40 million in California, and \$27 million in Washington state, to defeat proposed GMO label laws;

WHEREAS, many Clark County citizens are alarmed that the grocery industry would spend so many millions of dollars to hide food ingredients from the general public;

WHEREAS, state and federal authorities refuse to undertake GMO labeling because state and federal lawmakers are unduly influenced by campaign contributions from GMO manufacturers and the grocery industry;

WHEREAS, Clark County has an established tradition of acting on behalf of the citizenry when state and federal authorities will not;

WHEREAS, Clark County wishes to promote (i) health & safety, along with (ii) transparency, the County hereby recognizes that its citizens have a “right to know” whether genetically modified organisms are present in the food they eat.

NOW THEREFORE, we Clark County lawmakers hereby resolve to instruct County Counsel to prepare and present a “GMO Label” ordinance. The Clark County “GMO Label” would require labeling of: (i) all foods that are genetically modified and patented, and (ii) all foods that contain ingredients that have been genetically modified and patented; (iii) the label requirement does not apply to food items that have patents for “food preparation processes.”

Definitions:

(1) Genetically Modified Organisms: The term, “genetically modified organisms,” commonly known as “GMOs,” are herein defined as bacteria, viruses, plants, animals and other organisms that scientists genetically modify in the laboratory with DNA from other bacteria, viruses, plants, animals or other organisms; (and thus, if food items consist of viruses, plants, animals that have been genetically modified, such items require a “GMO” label).

(2) The GMO Label: If food items are GMO or contain GMO ingredients, such foods shall bear a conspicuous circular label, (the same size as USDA organic labels), which shall read as follow,

“This product contains GMOs.”

(3) Patented Foods & Ingredients: Clark County lawmakers recognize that patents have been granted for all GMO foods, *i.e.*, all GMO foods are patented. By contrast, however, not all food-related patents are GMOs

because, while some food-related patents pertain to “food items,” other food-related patents pertain to “food preparation processes.”

(4) Legal Presumption: This Clark County “GMO Label” law presumes that all food patents pertain to GMO “food items,” and therefore, all patented foods must bear the “GMO label”—unless the holder of the food-related patent demonstrates that a particular patent pertains to a “food preparation process,” which shall not require the “GMO Label.”