

Susan Gouveia

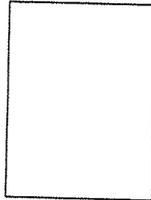
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From: Lashway, Lisa
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 9:22 AM
To: Canning, Sean; Susan Gouveia
Subject: FW: Calling all Farmers to Sign On!

Categories: Correspondence

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From: NOFA-NJ [mailto:sclerico@nofanj.org]
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 9:15 AM
To: Lashway, Lisa
Subject: Calling all Farmers to Sign On!



NJ Farmers for GMO Labels

Dear President Sweeney and Assembly Speaker Prieto:

We, the undersigned, call on the New Jersey legislature to protect farmer livelihoods and the consumers' right to choose by passing S-91/A1359 to require the labeling of genetically engineered (GMO) foods. This measure would give consumers the right to know the story behind the food they eat and protect organic and conventional non-GMO farmers from undue harm.

Once S-91/A1359 become law, farmers can more readily choose whether or not to use GMO technology, differentiate their products, and sell to specific markets. GMO labels will also help maintain transparency throughout the supply-chain to reduce the possibility for GMO contamination of organic and non-GMO loads and associated financial losses due to market rejections. If an organic or non-GMO farm becomes contaminated with GMO seeds they can suffer economic hardship by losing their market to sell.

While GMO labeling would require segregating seeds according to GMO content throughout the food chain, this is already done with many identity-preserved crops. Labeling requirements would not necessarily require farmers to incur any extra costs while keeping seeds separated at the field level. There are already segregation methods in place today for crop and seed export to countries with GMO labeling requirements, like the European Union nations, Japan, and China. These practices would have to be expanded, but it is not an entirely new system that has to be developed.

Large farms in NJ are vanishing, and smaller farms will be carrying the burden of ensuring healthier food choices. It is not only organic farmers who suffer undue harm from GMO use, not labeling also hurts conventional non-GMO farmers because there is no market differentiation. The non-GMO label is expensive, and farmers using non-GMO and/or sustainable practices should not have to bear the onus of labeling their product when their methods of production have been around far longer than the newer GMO technology. Those profiting from the patented GMO products should be responsible for paying the expenses of labeling.

Additionally, Americans are becoming increasingly interested in how their food is produced, and a GMO label is vital for farmers and consumers who want to avoid contributing to the chemical-intensive, environmentally harmful methods that go into producing GMO crops. Labeling will allow consumers to know how different foods are produced. Whether or not someone chooses to read a label is entirely their choice, but they deserve the right to know what they are buying, eating, and feeding to their families.

We, the farmers of New Jersey, call on you to do the right thing for New Jersey farmers and consumers by making sure labeling becomes the law in New Jersey.

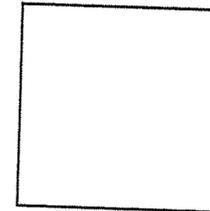
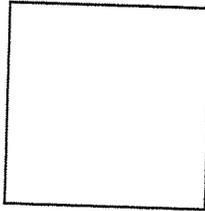
Sincerely,

Please add your farm to this letter by clicking here: **[NJ Farmers for GMO Labels](#)** and providing your information.

If you are not a farmer, but would like to add your organization's name to support the effort to label genetically engineered foods in NJ, please sign-on here:
<http://bit.ly/NJGMOSignOnNJ>

THANK YOU!

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