

JUN 3, 2014 CIT-3  
VICKIE MACHADO

LOCAL RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Lauderdale recognizes that consumers want accurate and thorough information about the food they feed their families; and

WHEREAS, the potential long-term risks to public health and the environment from genetically engineered foods are unknown; and

WHEREAS, safety studies on genetically engineered foods are limited because biotechnology companies prohibit cultivation for research purposes in their seed licensing agreements; and

WHEREAS, some independent, peer-reviewed research that has been done on genetically engineered crops has revealed problems with liver and kidney functions in rats, deformities and neurological problems in vertebrates and lower nutrition content in Roundup Ready crops; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the United States Department of Agriculture to ensure that genetically engineered crops are safe to grow, the Environmental Protection Agency to ensure that genetically engineered products will not harm the environment and the Food and Drug Administration to ensure that genetically engineered food is safe to eat; and

WHEREAS, the patchwork of federal agencies that regulates genetically engineered crops and animals in the United States has failed to adequately oversee and monitor genetically engineered products; and

WHEREAS, farmers who produce organic or non-genetically engineered crops run the risk of crop contamination from nearby genetically engineered crops; and

WHEREAS; farmers who unintentionally grow genetically engineered-patented seeds or who harvest crops that are contaminated with genetically engineered traits could lose marketing options and face costly lawsuits; and

WHEREAS, a 2013 *New York Times* poll found that 93 percent of U.S. consumers wanted all genetically engineered ingredients to be labeled;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2014, the City of Fort Lauderdale supports mandatory labeling of all genetically engineered products.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND EFFECTIVE on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014.

ATTEST:

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Mayor

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Date

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Council President

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Date

**PLEASE SEND A COPY OF THIS SIGNED RESOLUTION TO:**

1. Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, Ariel Rios Building 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20460
2. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20250
3. Margaret Hamberg M.D., Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, 10903 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20993
4. Senator Bill Nelson, United States Senate, 716 Senate Hart Office Building Washington, DC 20510
5. Senator Marco Rubio, United States Senate 284 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510
6. Local Representative Lois Frankel, United States House of Representatives, 1037 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515
7. Food & Water Watch, 1044 NE 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue / Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304

June 3, 2014

Dear Fort Lauderdale City Commissioner,

We are writing on behalf of our organizations urging you to support a state bill that requires labeling of all genetically engineered (GE) food.

Over the last 20 years, genetically engineered organisms in our country have created uncertainties and risks in our food system that need to be addressed. Genetic engineering uses recombinant DNA technology to transfer genetic material from one organism to another organism to produce specific traits. As new genetically engineered organisms, including crops and animals, continue to be introduced into our food system, a lack of precautionary measures threatens both the public's right to make educated decisions about their health and the way that farmers produce our nation's food.

The onslaught of genetically engineered food and the patenting of seeds by large biotechnology companies has diminished the ability of farmers to practice their own methods of seed selection, raised the price of seeds, and opened farmers up to patent infringement lawsuits. Genetic contamination, through the natural cross-pollination of GE crops with non-GE crops, is a serious threat to the farmers who have chosen against genetically engineered crops. The intensified use of agrochemicals in these GE production systems has also led to an increase in weed and insect resistance to herbicides and pesticides.

Unfortunately, once GE products are on the market, labeling these products as such is not required. This means that consumers are blindly eating and drinking GE ingredients every day and are not given the knowledge or choice to do otherwise. Several studies point to the health risks of GE crops and their associated agrochemicals. Many GE crops are designed to withstand stronger pesticides or even contain cells that naturally produce insecticides. But because FDA relies on data submitted by biotech companies and does no independent safety testing of its own, the potential long-term risks from eating GE food (like its allergenic potential) are unknown.

The State of Florida prides itself for being a major producer of food for the world as well as a leader in protecting its farmers and citizens. We strongly urge you to support consumer rights and propose a local resolution in support of the state bill for mandatory labeling of genetically engineered food.

Sincerely,

Food & Water Watch – Wenonah Hauter, Executive Director – Washington, D.C.

### **Community Organizations**

Bicycle House Tallahassee – Scot Benton, President – Tallahassee, FL

CIAO! – Maurizio Bertoldi – Tallahassee, FL

Clairmont 'L' Condo Association – Doug Young, President – Tamarac, FL

Family Tree Community Center – Glenn Belay, Member of Board of Directors – Tallahassee, FL

Greater Frenchtown Revitalization Council – Miaisha Mitchell, Executive Director – Tallahassee, FL

Ivy-Daisy Garden Circle – Annette Krause, Chairperson – Tallahassee, FL

Krank it Up! – Justin Pogge, Owner – Tallahassee, FL

The Roosevelt 2.0 – Bryan Roberts, Managing Member – Tampa, FL

Highlands Gardens- Community Gardens – Maria Jackson, Manager – Hollywood

### **Environmental Organizations**

Code Green Community – Eric Stewart, Director – Holiday, FL

Create Clearwater – Koreen Brennan, Coordinator – Clearwater, FL

Dream in Green – Miami, FL  
Earth Learning – Mario Yanez, Director and Founder – Miami, FL  
EarthSave Miami – J.M. Tucker, Chair – Miami Springs, FL  
Environmental Coalition of Miami and the Beaches – Miami Beach, FL  
Everglades Earth First! – Leah Rothschild, Editor – Lake Worth, FL  
Florida Eco Network – Howard Dean, Founder & Director – Lake Worth  
Keep Our School Beautiful – USF Tampa – Shaza Hussein, President – Tampa, FL  
Oceans for Whales & Dolphins – Ruth Samuels, Director – West Palm Beach, FL  
Operation Green Leaves Inc. – Nadine Pakire, Executive Director – Coral Gables, FL  
Sierra Club Florida – Debbie Matthews, Chair – St. Petersburg, FL  
South Florida Audubon Society – Doug Young, President – Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Student Environmental Association – University of South Florida, Tampa – Joseph Michalsky, President –  
Tampa, FL  
Tallahassee Sustainability Group – David Newman, Vice President – Tallahassee, FL  
The Bridge – Rebecca Blanco, Chair – Dade City, FL  
wiseBUYS the green – Irene Tetonis, Publisher – Coral Gables, FL  
EarthSave Miami – Jeff Tucker, Chair – Miami

### **Faith-based Organizations**

Center for Spiritual Living – Aurelie Laurence – Wilton Manors, FL  
Christian Cultural Development Foundation – Robin Haines Merrill, Executive Director – Fort Lauderdale,  
FL  
Green Living Energy Education Community Garden of Key West – Vicki Boguszewski – Key West, FL  
Moon Path Chapter of Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans – Sophia Letourneau, Treasurer –  
Oakland Park, FL  
Pax Christi St. Maurice – Art Kane, Director – Dania Beach, FL  
Sowing Seeds Sewing Comfort Ministry – Minster Ivy – Tallahassee, FL  
Sunshine State Interfaith Power and Light – Reverend Andy Bell, Director – Florida  
The Center for Inspired Living – Susan Lerner, Minister – West Palm Beach, FL  
The Oneness Project – Markus Edmiston, Founder – Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Lauderdale Board of Trustees – Myra Symons, President –  
Lauderdale Lakes, FL  
Unity Church in the Gardens – Rhonda Rifelli, Office Manager – Jupiter, FL

### **Farmer's Markets and Farmers/Producers**

Bearss Grove, LLC – Tampa, FL  
Betton Hills Community Garden – Sue Hansen, Contact Agent – Tallahassee, FL  
Coral Ridge Outdoor Green Market – Rachel O'Neill, Market Manager – Fort Lauderdale, FL  
County Eight Farm – Dave Butler, Farmer – Cocoa, FL  
Dream in Green – Gabriole Van Bryce, Executive Director – Miami, FL  
Full Earth Farm – Katie Harris, Farm Manager – Quincy, FL  
Gray Mockingbird Community Garden – Brian Kirsch – Lake Worth, FL  
Harbison Cattle & Produce Farm – Troy Harbison – Anthony, FL  
Heritage Hen Farm – Svetlana Simon, Farmer – Boynton Beach, FL  
LNB Groves, Inc. – Andena Joy – Homestead, FL  
Marando Farms – Chelsea Marando, Owner – Fort Lauderdale, FL  
North Magnolia Farmers Market – Troy Harbison – Ocala, FL  
Paradise Farms – Gabriele Maruski, President – Homestead, FL  
Salvation Army Garden – David Newman, Farm Hand – Tallahassee, FL  
Shadowood Farm, Inc. – Robert Fenton, President – Palm City, FL

Sweetwater Organic Farm – Andrea Harms, Program Director – Tampa, FL  
The Family Garden – Jordan Brown – Bell, FL  
The Good Earth Farm, Inc. – Nancy Fried, Owner – Loxahatchee, FL  
Turkey Hill Farm – Louse Divine, Owner – Tallahassee, FL  
Willow Herbal Delight Gardens – Willow LaMonte, Founder – Valrico, FL  
Market in Palm Beach – Hector Iribarne, Founder – Pembroke Pines  
Criswell Farms LLC – Kevin Quigley, Farmer – Fort Lauderdale

### **Food System and Farming Organizations**

AGvocacy – Dina Clingman-Bell – Lake Worth, FL  
Broward County Community Outreach – Chelsea Marando, President – Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Farm Fresh Miami – Erica Lisman, Founder – Miami, FL  
Farmworkers Association of Florida – Jeannie Economos, Pesticide Health Project Coordinator – Apopka  
Farmworkers Self-Help, Inc. – Margarita Romo, Executive Director – Dade City, FL  
Flagler Village Community Garden – Chad Scott, President – Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Florida Right to Know – Trish Sheldon, Director – Florida  
Food Activists Revolutionizing Meals (FARM) – Colleen Mulcahey & Marla Greer, Members – Tampa, FL  
Gaia's Guardians Permaculture – Bill Bilodeau, Coordinator – St. Petersburg, FL  
GMO Free Florida – Trish Sheldon, Director – Florida  
Little Haiti Community Garden – Miami, FL  
Localecopia – Rick Hawkins, Co-founder – Palm Beach, FL  
Local Food South Florida – Mike Moskos – Hialeah, FL  
Los Olas Vegans – Alys Marks, Co-Founder – Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Millions Against Monsanto – Trish Sheldon, Director – Florida  
North Florida Culinary Incubator – Shacafrica Simmons, Director/Chef – Tallahassee, FL  
Once Upon a Carrot – Cindy Hill, Founder – Miami Beach, FL  
Palm Beach Gardens Raw Food Group – Viveca Park, Organizer – Palm Beach, Florida  
Raw Food Meetup Fort Lauderdale – Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Red Hills Small Farm Alliance – Louise Divine, Co-Founder – Tallahassee, FL  
Slow Food First Coast – Richard Villadoniga, Founder – St. Augustine, FL  
Slow Food Glades to Coast – Diane Campion, Leader – Wellington, FL  
Slow Food Tampa Bay – Christine Hale, Secretary – St. Petersburg, FL  
St. Pete Locally Grown – Tina Levy, Market Manager – St. Petersburg, FL  
Suncoast Co-Op – Eric Stewart, Florida Director – Holiday, FL  
Tallahassee Food Network – Nathan Balentine, Founding Partner – Tallahassee, FL  
The Palm Beach County Vegetarian Society – Melanie Wolf – Palm Beach County, FL  
Urban Oasis Project – Art Friedrich – Miami, FL  
Vital Longevity Raw Food Group – Susan Lerner, Founder – West Palm Beach, FL  
Youth L.E.A.D. – Erin Healy, CEO/Founder – Miami, FL  
Broward Food System Cooperative – Michael Madfis, Vice President, - Fort Lauderdale

### **Health Organizations**

All People's Day – Susan Berkowitz-Schwartz, Founder/President – Delray Beach, FL  
Allergy and Asthma Diagnostic Treatment Center – Ron Saff, MD – Tallahassee, FL  
Annie Appleseed Project – Ann Fonfa, Founder – Delray Beach, FL  
Authentic Health Now – Sandy Allen, Co-Founder – Plant City, FL  
Code Pink – Suki De Jong and Hillary Keyes – Boynton Beach, FL  
healthhopehealing.org – Lenny Horton, CEO – Florida City, FL  
Hippocrates Health Institute – Brian Clement, Director – West Palm Beach, FL  
James D. O'Neill, DC – St. Petersburg, FL  
The Connection Partners, Inc. – Sharon Joy Kleitsch, Founder – St. Petersburg, FL

### **Arts and Humanity Organizations**

Art Student League – Jessica Ciani, Vice President – Tallahassee, FL  
Artist Coalition Annukai  
Life Wired – Torrey Ella, Artist  
Palm Beach Photographic Center – Fatima, NeJame, CEO – Palm Beach, FL  
South of Soho Cooperative Art Gallery – Jeff Zenick, Artist - Tallahassee

### **Political Parties**

Ecology Party of Florida – Cara Campbell, Chair – Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Green Party of Florida – Bonnie Redding, Secretary – Indian Rocks Beach, FL

### **Public Interest Organizations**

Awake Tampa – Joseph Jay, Facilitator – Tampa, FL  
Florida Consumer Action Network – Bill Newton, Executive Director – Tampa, FL  
Florida New Majority – Tim Heberlein, Political Director – Tampa, FL

### **Social Justice Organizations**

Aurora's Voice – Pablo Del Real, Founder – Delray Beach, FL  
Nourish 9 Billion – Christopher Stampar, Co-Coordinator – Miami, FL  
Sistuhs, Inc. – Jalecia Thomas, Treasurer – Tallahassee, FL  
War Vs. Human Needs – Melodi Willis, Activist – Broward and Palm Beach Counties, FL

### **Miscellaneous**

Florida School of Holistic Living – Emily Ruff, Director – Orlando, FL  
Foundation Learning Alliance – Jennifer Tinker, CEO – Lake Worth, FL  
Phi Theta Kappa – Emily Torres, President, Tallahassee, FL

### **Businesses**

20 Shekels Bread – Marni Atherton, Owner – Clearwater, FL  
Abby's Health and Nutrition – Victor Karydis, Store Manager – Tampa, FL  
Advantage Cargo – Shawn Rather, Owner – Fort Lauderdale, FL  
AMD Supply, LLC – Michael Cooper, Director – Medley, FL  
Around the Clock Emergency Services, LLC – Michael Cooper, Director – Boca Raton, FL  
Athena's Garden Herbal Emporium – Linda Tice, Owner – Tallahassee, FL  
Baci Gelati – Alessandra Ruospo, Owner – Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Bali-Hi Trading Company – Elaine Grace, Owner – Tallahassee, FL  
Bandidos Burrito Co. – Tallahassee, FL  
Bedner's Farm Fresh Market – Marie Bedner, Owner – Boynton Beach, FL  
Bella Bella Italian Restaurant – Tallahassee, FL  
Be Well Massage – Bryan Weinstein – Boca Raton, FL  
BirdSauce – David Wray, President – Tallahassee, FL  
Black Dog Café – Carla Reid, Owner – Tallahassee, FL  
BM Organics – Charles Weber, Owner – Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Bread and Roses Food Co-op – Simon Bevis and William Relova – Tallahassee, FL  
Café Italia – Hollywood, FL  
Canopy Road Café – Casey Sellers, Manager – Tallahassee, FL  
Catch A Wave Surf and Ski Shop – Paul Dunbar – Miami, FL  
Cheyenne's Country Thangs – Lisa Hunt, Owner – Lutz, FL  
Chia Growers – Jeffrey Walters, CEO  
Cooper Magnolia, Inc. – Matt Thomas, President – Riverview, FL

Dfd, Inc. – Eric Hodgson, President – Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Dickerson Landscape – William Dickerson, President – Tallahassee, FL  
Dynamic Fitness Programs Inc. – Kelly Doyle, Owner – Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Edible Gardening – Karin Fields, Owner – Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Edible Landscape – Rebecca Siplak and Paul Beich, Co-Owners – Panacea, FL  
Escopazzo Restaurant – Giancarla Bodoni, Owner and Chef – Miami Beach, FL  
Face Restaurant – Rimy Thomann, Owner – Hollywood, FL  
Figure 8 Drafting, LLC – Wes Shaffer, Owner – Tallahassee, FL  
Fisher Honey Bees – Judi Fisher, Owner – Land O Lakes, FL  
Fit & Functional – Sherman Rosier, Owner – Tallahassee, FL  
Florida Running Company – Coston Perkins – Miami, FL  
Fool Moon Treasures – Diane Sams, Product Development – Tallahassee, FL  
Fran Biz, Inc. – Kenneth Gordon, CEO – Tampa, FL  
Global Organics – Ronni Blumenthal, Vice-President – Sarasota, FL  
Going Green Tampa – Lisa Custer, Founder – Land O Lakes, FL  
Gold Coast Hurricane Shutters, Inc. – Michael Cooper, President – Davie, FL  
Got Sprouts – Sean Herbert, Owner – Riviera Beach, FL  
Gramlings, Inc. – Stan Gramling, President – Tallahassee, FL  
Green World Path – Dori Bon, Director of Sales, Outreach and Humanitarian Programs – Brooksville, FL  
Grove Ink Tattoo – Noel Garcia, Owner – Miami, FL  
Health & Fitness – Stephanie Brock, Owner – Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Herbal Passion Alchemy – Jose Gomez, Owner  
Holistic Happy Hour, LLC – Kerry Hanan, Owner – Tampa, FL  
Holistic Synergy, LLC – Denise Johnson, Owner – Miami, FL  
Homegrown Coop – Emily Ruff, Director – Orlando, FL  
Immune Solution – Jackie Page, Owner – Madeira Beach, FL  
InterNatural Marketing – Dina Clingman-Bell – Lake Worth, FL  
Ivory Palm Jewelry – Erica Rincan, Owner – Hollywood, FL  
Java Planet – Mike Simmons, Co-Owner – Tampa, FL  
Java Planet Organic Coffee Roasters – Jennifer Simmons, Owner – Tampa, FL  
Jeffrey Feller DC, PA – Jeffrey Feller, Doctor – Coral Springs, FL  
Joe's Bike Shop – Peter Burchell, Mechanic – Tallahassee, FL  
Kim's Alterations – Keith Baxter, Owner – Tallahassee, FL  
Kool Beanz Café – Keith Baxter, Owner – Tallahassee, FL  
La Vie en Raw Café – Sabina Torriorre – Coral Gables, FL  
Living Green Chiropractic & Wellness, LLC – Lindsay Taylor, Owner – Plantation, FL  
M & M Monogramming – Liz Snowden, Owner – Tallahassee, FL  
Mayhem Sweets & Treats – Andrea May, Owner – Tallahassee, FL  
Mr. Frogs – Eli Parker, Owner – Miami, FL  
My Secret Chef – Pamila Manley CC, CFSE, Owner/Chef – Tallahassee, FL  
Narcissus Mix at Midtown – Jaymie Forman, Manager – Tallahassee, FL  
Native Nurseries of Tallahassee Inc. – Donna Legare, Co-Owner – Tallahassee, FL  
Nature's Food Patch – Clearwater, FL  
Nature's Remedy – Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Neuromuscular Care Center – Mike Malie, Owner – Fort Lauderdale, FL  
New Age Piercings – Noel Garcia, Owner – Miami, FL  
Nutrition Smart – Miryam Salazar-Arreaza, Director of Marketing – Miami, FL  
NY Roma Pizza – Tomas Euvin, Owner – Miami, FL  
Ocean Grown, Inc. – John Hartman, President & CEO – Fort Pierce, FL  
Old Glory Tattoo – Brandon Bender, Owner – Tallahassee, FL  
Paisley Café, LLC – Kiersten Worrell, Owner – Tallahassee, FL

Penny Lane Emporium – Armando Zuppa, Owner – Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Pepe's Plants – Jasm "Pepe" Tormo, President – Davie, FL  
Pizza Fusion – Kris Adam, Owner – Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Plant City Commons, Inc. – Bob Abbenzeller, President – Plant City, FL  
Posthaste Compounding Pharmacy – Lisa Feiler, Owner – Hollywood, FL  
Rani's Boutique – Marie Jergensen, Manager – Miami, FL  
Raw! Raw! To Go – L. Garrison, Owner – Clearwater, FL  
RawOne Food – Sandesha Taylor, CEO – Hollywood, FL  
Rawsome Eats – Nina Kauder, Owner – Boynton Beach, FL  
Riverside Market Café – Julian Siegel, Owner – Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Rollin Zoinks, Inc. – Tammy Young – Tampa, FL  
SFIA Health Screenings – Lisa Feiler, Owner – Coral Springs, FL  
Smiley Kid Dental Care – Dr. Oana Romasan, Owner – Wilton Manors, FL  
Snooties BBQ – Joe Hire, Pitmaster – Tampa, FL  
Sooo Crafty – Judith Fernandez, Owner  
Spectrum Healing Associates – Andy Bernay-Roman, Co-Director – Jupiter, FL  
Stockton Aloe 1, Inc., Amanda Hale, Vice President – Pompano Beach, FL  
Sweet Patina – Mignon Deshaies, Owner – Tallahassee, FL  
Sweet Pea Café – Rachel Kaufmann, Owner – Tallahassee, FL  
TauEarth Environmental, LLC – Javier Illanes, Founder – Sunrise, FL  
Terra Verde Farms of Florida – R. Francesca Golub, President – Jupiter, FL  
The Bookstore in the Grove – Coconut Grove, FL  
The Crepevine – Arthur Silbur, General Manager – Tallahassee, FL  
The Emporium Pastries – Sapir Rom, Owner  
The Healthy Chef – Sherell White, Owner – St. Petersburg, FL  
The Last Carrot – Erin Compton, Owner – Miami, FL  
The Market Company – Claire Tomlin, Owner – Miami, FL  
The Maya Hatcha – Vivian Jordan – Coconut Grove, FL  
The Naturally Healthy Pet – Basil Cousins, Owner – Tallahassee, FL  
The Veggie Bin – Amie Keslar, Co-Owner – Avondale, FL  
Tomato Land – Linda Reagan, Co-Owner – Tallahassee, FL  
Upper Room Art Gallery – Robin Haines Merrill, Director – Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Urban Tea Gardens – Shelby Jonnatti, Owner – Tampa, FL  
Vegetable Venue – Lisa Witzen, Sales – Hollywood, FL  
Village Market – Jon Gelpey – North Palm Beach, FL  
Vogue Cleaner – Tallahassee, FL  
Whatever Pops – James Morgan, Owner – Tampa, FL  
Whimsicals by Joy – Joy Green, Owner – Havana, FL  
Whitehaus Media Group – Lori Suarez – Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Yum Market Cafe – Jessica Faber, President – Oakland Park  
Seeds of Life Bistro – Cristina Spinell, Owner/Chef – Wilton Manors