

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY-FIRST COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. M-14-3 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Isaac Benton and Diane Gibson

1 MEMORIAL
2 EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE MANDATORY LABELING OF GENETICALLY
3 ENGINEERED PRODUCTS TO INFORM CONSUMERS ABOUT THE CONTENT
4 OF FOOD PRODUCTS.

5 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque recognizes that consumers have the
6 right to receive accurate and thorough information about the products they
7 consume and feed to their families; and

8 WHEREAS, the potential long-term risks to public health and the
9 environment from genetically engineered products are largely unknown; and

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

13 WHEREAS, independent, peer-reviewed research on genetically engineered
14 crops has revealed problems with liver and kidney functions in rats; some
15 deformities and neurological problems in vertebrates; and lower nutrition
16 content in pesticide-resistant crops; and

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

22 WHEREAS, the United States federal agencies that regulate genetically
23 engineered products, including crops and animals, and the New Mexico
24 Legislature have not yet enacted a comprehensive plan to oversee and
25 monitor genetically engineered products; and

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

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

7 WHEREAS, a 2008 CBS/New York Times poll found that 87 percent of U.S.
8 consumers wanted all genetically engineered ingredients to be labeled.

9 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF**
10 **ALBUQUERQUE:**

11 Section 1. The City of Albuquerque supports mandatory labeling of all
12 genetically engineered food products and calls upon the Albuquerque
13 metropolitan region’s State legislative delegation, the Governor, and New
14 Mexico’s Federal Congressional delegation to support such mandatory
15 labeling.

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