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NOURISHING PEOPLE & PLANET

October 1, 2014

Mayor Eric Garcetti, City Council President Herb Wesson, Chairman Felipe Fuentes, Chairman Jose Huizar, Chairman Mitch O'Farrell

Re: Endorsement for LA GMO Free Zone Motion - File #13-1374

Dear Mayor Garcetti, President Wesson, Chairman Fuentes, Chairman Huizar, Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Councilmembers:

- GMOs cannot be grown near organic crops without ruining the organic crops-GMO pollen (in wind pollinated plants like corn and beets) spreads without regard to property lines and contaminates the organic crop. Produce with GMOs cannot be classified as organic, putting the organic farmer at risk for potential liability issues. A similar situation can occur on the margins in bee and insect pollinated crops. Wind pollinated destroys the value of organic crops up to 25 miles-the reason we need the buffer of a GMO Free Zone. This very issue dissuades some entrepreneurs from even trying to establish a business.
- The City Council has spent time and money to help citizens of LA establish organic gardens for our communities, our schools, in our front and backyards-almost all of which are grown organically because a majority of LA's population wishes to avoid eating GMOs.
- GMOs require more water to grow (as shown by USDA figures) – in Southern California we don't need more water wasters. Organic produce can be grown effectively on 30% less water than turf. Save water, eat tomatoes!

On behalf of Nutiva I am writing to express our organization's endorsement of the Koretz-O'Farrell motion #13-1374 to make the City of Los Angeles a GMO-Free Zone with regard to the sale, distribution and growth of GMO plants and seeds.

Sincerely,



John Roulac

Founder & CEO, Nutiva

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