Kelly Maria

From: Patrino Beth
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2013 10:35 AM
To: Kelly Maria
Subject: FW: Testimony on GMO Legislation, HB 2175, HB 2530, HB 2532, and HB 3177

From: Sabrina Siegel [mailto:sabrinasiegel@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2013 12:26 AM
To: Patrino Beth; Sabrina Siegel
Subject: Testimony on GMO Legislation, HB 2175, HB 2530, HB 2532, and HB 3177

Dear Representatives of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

I write to urge you to support and vote for HB 2175, HB 2530, HB 2532, and HB 3177

Groups in over 30 states have labeling and banning efforts underway including Washington, Vermont, Connecticut, Hawaii, and Minnesota.
A 2010 poll by Thomson Reuters showed, overwhelming, that people want to know what is in the food they eat. 93% of those polled stated they believe foods containing genetically modified ingredients should be labeled. It's clearly time to address the issue here in Oregon. Countries of the European Union, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil and China all require labeling of food with genetically modified organisms.
Over 60 countries have restrictions on GMOs. Doctors and scientists across the world are declaring health and environmental dangers with GMOs.
These plants and fish are transgenic. They are created by taking genes from one entirely different species and forcing it into another. In the case of "food" crops they are putting bacterial and viral genes into plants and in the process alien proteins are created that have never existed before, that act as a toxin to the body. And so it is no wonder that The Center for Disease Control reports a 265% increase in the rates of hospitalizations related to food allergic reactions since gmos have come into our food supply. http://blogs.prevention.com/inspired-bites/2013/03/18/for-the-allergic-food-proteins-are-bullets/
And now we learn of the French study by **Gilles-Eric Séralini** that shows that gmo cause cancer in rats. http://gmoseralini.org/research-papers/
And a Canadian study on humans that shows that the Bt toxin from plants engineered with Bt passes through the placenta of pregnant mothers into the brain etc of the fetus http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21338670 .

Here are other important references that demonstrate that the is absolutely no benefit to planting GMOs .. Only harms and big profits for the chemical/biotech companies. "Failure To Yield" by the Union of Concerned Scientists http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/food_and_agriculture/failure-to-yield.pdf

"A Global Citizens Report on the State of GMOs- False Promises, Failed Technologies"
Coordinated by Navdanya and Navdanya International, the International Commission on the Future of Food and Agriculture, with the participation of The Center for Food Safety (CFS) http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/GMO-EMPEROR-FINAL-10-11.pdf

GMO Myths & Truths

Myth 1 • Genetic engineering is just an extension of natural breeding.
Truth • Genetic engineering is very different from natural breeding. Unlike natural breeding that occurs between organisms of the same species, genetic engineering is actually the process of taking DNA from one species and inserting it into the DNA of a completely different species, i.e. inserting genes from an eel into a salmon, or genes from a fish into a tomato, or genes from a carrot into rice. This is a very different process than cross-pollinating or grafting two apple varieties to make a new one.

C Myth 2 • GM foods are strictly regulated for safety.

Truth • Currently, the FDA of the United States, performs zero – and requires zero -- safety testing of genetically engineered crops. Additionally, there are no requirements for any long term clinical trials to prove their safety before the FDA can approve a genetically engineered crop.

C Myth 3 • GM foods are safe to eat. Truth • GM foods can be toxic or allergenic. Peer-reviewed studies have found serious, harmful effects on the health of livestock and lab animals fed GMOs.

C Myth 4 • GM Bt insecticidal crops harm only insects and are harmless to animals and people.

Truth • GM Bt insecticidal crops pose hazards to people and animals that ingest them. Findings include toxic effects on the small intestine, liver, kidney, spleen, and pancreas, as well as disturbances in the digestive and immune systems.

C Myth 5 • GM animal feed poses no risks to animal or human health. Truth • GM feed affects the health of animals and may affect the humans who eat their products. Bt toxin
protein has been found in the blood of pregnant women and the blood supply to their fetuses.

C Myth 6 • GM crops increase yield potential.

Truth • Despite the promises, genetic engineering has failed to increase the yields of any commercialized crop. A report analyzing two decades of peer reviewed research on the yields of soy and corn concluded that "Traditional breeding outperforms genetic engineering hands down."

C Myth 7 • GM crops decrease pesticide use.

Truth • GM crops have actually resulted in far heavier use of pesticide than ever before. In the 6 year span from 2001 to 2007, the number of pounds of Roundup used in the United States more than doubled from 90 million pounds to over 180 million pounds, and the number has only continued to rise.

C Myth 8 • No-till farming with GM crops is "environmentally friendly".

Truth • Claims of environmental benefits are unsound. GM herbicide-tolerant crops, such as Roundup Ready soy, have increased the use of toxic chemicals and led to glyphosate-resistant superweeds. These superweeds, and other pests, now require even more chemical controls.

C Myth 9 • Roundup (Monsanto's glyphosate) is a benign, biodegradable herbicide.

Truth • Roundup is not biodegradable. In fact, Monsanto's own studies showed that 28 days after application, only 2% of the product had broken down. They were forced to remove "biodegradable" from the label. Roundup persists in the environment and has toxic effects on wildlife. Roundup (Glyphosate) is toxic, and was detected in 60%-100% of air and rain samples in the U.S. Midwest States during crop growing season.

C Myth 10 • GM crops can "coexist" with non-GM.

Truth • "Coexistence" rapidly results in widespread contamination of non-GM and organic crops. Germany passed a law making GM crop growers liable for economic damages to non-GM farmers resulting from GM contamination. The law has virtually halted the planting of GM crops in that country.

C Myth 11 • GM will deliver climate-ready crops. Truth • Conventional breeding outstrips GM in delivering climate-ready crops. Tolerance to extreme weather and resistance to accompanying pests and diseases are complex traits that GM cannot deliver.

C Myth 12 • GM reduces energy use.

Truth • GM crops are energy-hungry. They depend on large amounts of herbicides which require large amounts of fossil fuels to manufacture. The U.S. food system spends 10 kilocalories of fossil energy for every 1 kilocalorie produced. Two-thirds of that energy goes to produce synthetic fertilizers and on-farm mechanization.

C Myth 13 • GM crops are needed to feed the world's growing population.

Truth • GM crops are irrelevant to feeding the world. GM neither delivers higher yields nor produces more with fewer inputs than non-GM crops. Hunger is a problem of distribution, poverty, and loss of crop diversity, which GM crop growth in developing nations has been shown to worsen. Monocultures (only growing a single variety of a crop) have eliminated thousands of native nutritious plant varieties.

C Myth 14 • GM crops are vital to achieving food security.

Truth • Agro-ecological farming is the key to food security, according to 400 scientists and experts from 80 countries, a position also endorsed by 62 governments worldwide. Their report, the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology, did not endorse GM crops or livestock.
Summarized from "GMO Myths and Truths: An evidence-based examination of the claims made for the safety and efficacy of genetically modified crops," by Michael Antoniou, PhD; Claire Robinson, MPhil; and John Fagan, PhD; June 2012, published by Earth Open Source

Thank you for your attention,
Sabrina Siegel
Eugene, OR
97405