



Office of the City Clerk



R2012-797

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City Council Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	9/12/2012
Sponsor(s):	Burnett, Walter (27)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Support for mandatory labeling of genetically engineered food
Committee(s) Assignment:	Committee on Health and Environmental Protection

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR LABELING OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD

WHEREAS, The City of Chicago 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 & 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 2008 CBS/New York Times poll found that 87 percent of U.S. consumers wanted all genetically engineered food product ingredients to be labeled; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That we, the undersigned members of the City of Chicago City Council support mandatory labeling of all genetically engineered product and urge the State of Illinois legislature to take up this issue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That copies of this resolution be prepared and presented to Lisa Jackson, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; United States Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack; Commissioner of the Food & Drug Administration Dr. Margaret Hamburg, the Honorable Richard Durbin and the Honorable Mark Kirk, United States Senators; the United States Illinois Congressional Delegation, the Honorable Michael Madigan, Speaker of the Illinois House and the Honorable John Cullerton, President of the Illinois Senate.



WALTER BURNETT, JR.

Alderman - 27th Ward