

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy,
Senator Roraback, Rep. Chapin, & members of
the committee

I am here to speak on the act concerning the recycling of organic materials by certain food wholesalers, manufacturers, supermarkets and conference centers. This is a large step forward in recognizing our need in sustaining and protecting uncontaminated organic matter. Its high potential for a safe and healthy reusable substance comes from its biological decomposition of carbon, nitrogen and other various nutrients, all of which enhance and enriches the soil. This step in recycling, composting and reusing organic waste also helps diminishes our need and financial drain of using artificial fertilizers or other additives.

Why is it so important to produce and sustained uncontaminated organic matter? Many countries have already banned or greatly limited the use of artificial or altered soil enhancers. This, of course, is not news to our State, which has already placed certain bans on its use. There have been enough studies done researching the health concerns that these products create, to cause a major alarm. Uncontaminated organic, however, comes with a guarantee that you know what you are getting and previous knowledge to its safety to the environment and the health of humans. Organics have passed the most difficult test of proof there is. They have passed the test of time. This calls to mind the old saying "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

In providing our State with a larger source of organic matter to draw upon we are not only decreasing our dependency on altered or artificial methods, we

are working towards a State with a healthier population. This seems to be a win/win/win for our environment, our health care and our budget.

In staying true to the ability to separate organic waste, it should be noted that materials that do not fit into this category should be labeled as such. In the case of GMOs, though stated to be considered equivalent to its conventional counterpart, the title alone, Genetically Modified Organisms, tells us that the seed has been modified, ergo changed, altered, from its original organic state. Some seeds have also been rendered sterile which is a considerable change from the organic seed.

There has been a persistent concern and controversy over the health risk of these products. Numerous organizations, such as Greenpeace, for one and individuals like Jane Goodall, have stepped up to address these concerns. Haiti, a country in dire need of food, was noted as burning the GMO seeds donated to them. Countries are fighting against their use. Five countries in the European Union, ^{due to threat to the environment} ~~due to health risks~~, have banned the use of their only GMO product, maize, and Germany is now joining them.

The only issue being made here, at this time, is the simple request that Genetically Modified Organisms carry the label for which they are ^{named} known, GMO. It is a request to exercise our right of freedom of choice. The right to choose what is considered as organic waste. Let us move ahead in the comfort of foresight and not the concern of hindsight.

In conclusion I am happy to see that our state recognizes and stands by the fact that just because it is labeled as organic waste does not mean that it should be wasted.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

