

Thank you for the opportunity to send testimonies in via email for the hearing on this bill. This is something I care very much about! Below is what I would like to share:

Madam Chair/Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee,

My name is Meghan Magner, I am twenty-one years old and from Woodbury Connecticut. I am writing in support of bill 5117, An Act Concerning Genetically Engineered Foods.

Industrial agriculture is largely not held accountable for its offenses on the environment. Because it's what we eat. We don't want to think about our food damaging the ecosystem, Just like we don't want to ask about the gene makeup of our tomato, because we want to believe its only a tomato. But its not anymore. In today's world it could be tomato bred with herbicide resistant chemicals, so farmers can be less cautious with spraying of more chemicals onto their crops. Or, just think, tomato bred with trout or bred with camel dna, for better water retention.

This modification of our food system clearly breaks the laws of nature. We are already seeing the effects of industrial agriculture on our environment. To propose that we are able to safely create these food hybrids, to either grow all year round, in regions unnatural to the crop, or to even fight world hunger - is to behave as if we create the laws of nature. If that was true, perhaps we'd have a better idea why it hasn't snowed much this winter and today its nearly 50 degrees.

Our food system is not the only factor of climate change but it is a huge offender, one of the largest reasons is that we are producing foods in laboratories and not on farms. The consumers need to know what they are investing their money in, and need to know the health effects, environmental affects and the affects it will have on small farmers, real farmers, who make up less than 2% of our American population.

Organic agriculture is the only answer to how we can responsibly sustain the earth and know we are putting real and wholesome food into our bodies. But it is an industry looked at as a luxury, for the middle upper class, and one that is largely misunderstood. A huge reason consumers supply little demand for organic agriculture is because they truly have no idea what non-organic really means. I am fortunate enough to know the difference and I vote with my dollar. It is time to allow others who are right now, less informed to be able to do the same.