



Connecticut Chapter
2074 Park St.
Hartford, Connecticut 06105
<http://www.sierraclub.org/connecticut>
Martin Mador, Legislative Chair

Committee on Children
March 3, 2016

Testimony in Support of HB 5300 AAC The Use of Genetically Modified Organisms
in Children's Food

I am Martin Mador, 130 Highland Ave., Hamden, CT 06518. I am the volunteer Legislative Chair for the Connecticut Chapter of the Sierra Club. I hold a Masters of Environmental Management degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

The Sierra Club was strongly in support of the successful effort in 2013 to pass legislation requiring GMO labelling. Our support on the issue has in no way changed since Public Act 13-183 was signed.

Debate on the health effects of GMOs and the accompanying pesticides continues. While we maintain that the Precautionary Principle tells us it is time to take action when there is accumulated evidence to believe there is a threat, our efforts concerning GMOs have been directed at labelling rather than a ban.

We believe people have the right in this case to become informed on an issue, and decide for themselves and their families what action is appropriate. That requires the necessary information be freely available to them. That is exactly the purpose of labelling. There is no downside, no harm done by such labelling.

As we know other states have enacted labelling laws or are close to doing so, it is time to remove the multi-state trigger embedded in PA 13-183 and proceed to requiring the labelling we need. This will also send the message to Congress that federal efforts to pre-empt state action are not welcome.