

RIGHT TO KNOW—GMO: Letters to the Editor



WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Send a brief letter (250-350) words to the editor of your local paper about why LD 718, the Right to Know—GMO bill is a good idea for Maine. Please email a copy of your letter, with your Name and Address to righttoknowgmo@mofga.org. Also, please let us know if your letter gets published.

Letters to the Editor should be short, clear and personal. Be sure to include some sort of personal story, anecdote or experience in your letter. Be respectful, professional and even in your tone and choice of language. Finally, please refer to the bill as LD 718, An Act to Protect Maine Food Consumers Right to Know.

Here are a few points you might want to make.

If you are a mom or dad:

- I am careful about what I feed my family/kids.
- I read labels when deciding what to feed my family.
- I would prefer to know how much GMO content is in the food I feed my children.
- I have a right to know how the food I buy for my family was produced.

If you are a small farmer or food processor:

- LD 718 would not regulate or effect Maine agriculture
- Most crops grown in Maine and sold as human food are not genetically modified.
- Adding another label to a product is relatively cheap and easy for producers.
- Labels allow consumers to make informed choices about what they buy.
- Maine's thriving local food economy would only benefit from Right to Know—GMO labeling.

MORE IDEAS ON REVERSE...

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If you are someone with food allergies, dietary restrictions or religious beliefs that cause you to avoid certain ingredients in foods:

- LD 718 allows for informed consumer choices necessary for the free market to work.
- In 2011, more than 90 percent of soybeans and cotton and over 85 percent of field corn cultivated in the United States were genetically modified.
- Nearly 75 percent of processed foods sold in grocery stores contain GMOs.
- Biotechnology companies allow very little independent research on their patented crops.
- The Federal government does not do safety testing on GMOs.
- The potential long-term risks to public health from genetically modified foods are currently unknown.
- Because there is scientific uncertainty, there is an even greater need for labeling to allow consumers to make informed choices.
- A reason why YOU want a label, like:
 - I have allergies
 - I have health concerns
 - I have dietary restrictions from my religion
 - I am careful about what I feed my family/kids
 - I use my grocery dollars to influence food production practices