



Paul R. LePage  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
1 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

9 July 2013

Dear Representative Harvell and Senator Johnson:

I and my office have worked openly and in good faith throughout the legislative session on LD 718, An Act to Protect Maine Food Consumers' Right to Know about Genetically Engineered Food and Seed Stock. While I have significant reservations regarding the constitutionality of required labeling, I deeply appreciate the strong public sentiment behind the bill and agree that consumers should have the right to know what is in their food. Additionally, my support for the bill is based in large part on the requirement in the bill that similar legislation be enacted and passed in other contiguous states so that we assure interstate commerce is impeded to the lowest degree possible.

I have been advised by the Attorney General of the State of Maine that due to the constitutional questions surrounding the law, litigation involving the State is highly likely. The legal effort required to defend this law will be complex and very costly. Also, it is likely that there will be litigation in other states very soon, as well. It is to Maine's benefit to simply delay implementation of the law, and take advantage of the results of litigation in other states.

For these reasons, when I receive the bill having been enacted by both bodies and presented to me for signature, it is only prudent that I delay action. To that end, I will hold the bill and sign LD 718 when the 126<sup>th</sup> Legislature reconvenes for 3 full legislative days.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage  
Governor

Cc: Dan Walker



RECYCLING