



GE-Free Initiative Timeline & Organizing Guide

City, township or county ordinances and resolutions are effective tools to build BioDemocracy, empower your community and safeguard our food, farms and future. The strength of the anti-GE, pro-organic movement is in the grassroots. Local initiatives such as GMO bans capitalize on our strengths, build community and prepare the ground for policy changes at the state and federal level.

1. Define and analyze your goal:

Whether it is a GE-Free Zone, GE Labeling resolution or whatever you chose, you and your core group need to carefully analyze your local city, county or campus. No one county is alike, requiring you to:

- Create a timeline for your campaign. It is important to know the electoral calendar of your county, how often your Board of Supervisors meet, how long it takes for an ordinance to enter force, etc.
- Fill in the Midwest Academy Strategy Chart below as a guide to developing your GE-Free strategy. Be specific. List all the possibilities.

GOALS	ORGANIZATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS	CONSTITUENTS, ALLIES/OPPONENTS	TARGETS	TACTICS
1. List the long-term objectives of your campaign.	1. List the resources that your organization brings to the campaign. Include: money, number of staff, facilities, reputation, etc. What is the budget, including in-kind contributions, for this campaign?	1. Who cares about the issues enough to join in or help the organization? • Whose problem is it? • What do they gain if they win? • What risks are they taking? • What power do they have over the target? • Into what group are they organized?	1. Primary targets A primary target is always a person. It is never an institution or elected body. • Who has the power to give you what you want? • What power do you have over them?	1. For each target, list the tactics that each constituent group can best use to make its power felt. Tactics must be: • In context. • Flexible and creative. • Directed at a specific target. • Make sense to the membership. • Be backed up by a specific form of power.
2. State the intermediate goals for the issue campaign. What constitutes a victory? How long will the campaign: • Win concrete improvements in people's lives? • Give people a sense of their own power? • Alter the relations of power?	2. List the specific ways in which you want your organization to be strengthened by this campaign, Fill in the numbers for each: • Expand leadership groups. • Increase experience of existing leadership. • Build a membership base. • Expand into new constituencies. • Raise more money.	2. Who are your opponents? • What will your victory cost them? • What will they do/spend to oppose you? • How strong are they?	2. Secondary targets • Who has the power over the people with the power to give you what you want? • What power do you have over them?	Tactics include: • Media events. • Actions for information and demands. • Public hearings. • Strikes. • Voter registration and voter education. • Lawsuits. • Accountability sessions. • Elections. • Negotiations.
3. What short-term or partial victories can you win as steps toward your long-term goal?	3. List internal problems that have to be considered if the campaign is to succeed.			

Source: Midwest Academy, 225 West Ohio, Suite 250, Chicago, IL 60610

2. Building the foundation of your coalition:

Identify local allies, recruit new organizations, community leaders, and residents to join your efforts. Whether they offer an endorsement, donate money or get directly involved, local community support is vital. Contact unions, PTAs, and community and faith-based organizations.

Once you've started building your coalition, convene a general informational meeting. This meeting will be an opportunity to invite and recruit more coalition members and supporters. Show a video (like *The Future of Food*) or invite a guest speaker to talk about GE crops and foods and their impacts on human health, the environment and the economy.

3. Draft your initiative:

The Organic Consumers Association (OCA) has created a sample ordinance to serve as a template (Annex 1 on page 7). However, it is best to analyze your local city or county, and craft an ordinance based upon your relative strengths and weaknesses.

Several other recent county initiatives are available on the OCA's BioDemocracy web page: www.organicconsumers.org/ge-free.htm · Please contact the OCA for more information on drafting a resolution for your county: ryan@organicconsumers.org or 415-271-6833)

4. Decision time:

What route to take to get your initiative passed.

Depending on the laws in your area, there are a variety of options to turn your initiative into a law, including:

- Petition process to place the Initiative on the Ballot
- County Board of Supervisors placing the Initiative on the Ballot
- County Board of Supervisors passing the Initiative into Law
- County Board of Supervisors passing a non-binding resolution

For more information on each option, check with your local Registrar of Voters, County Clerk, District Attorney, etc. Also check your state's electoral code for specific details. Depending on your short and long-term objectives, you may have several options to create a GE Free zone in your community. Utilize the strategy chart as a tool for choosing the best option for your community.

5. Outreach, educate, mobilize!

Genetic Engineering is a controversial topic, permeated with myths and lies. To garner support for your initiative,

you will have to introduce the issue to your community, debunk industry and government myths and deceptions, and catalyze them to action. Check the OCA section on education and outreach for more information.

6. Get the vote out

As the day approaches for the vote on your initiative, mobilize your network and unleash your media machine. Use a phone and email tree to remind your base to get out the vote and contact 10 friends to do the same. Bring the fence sitters into the fold with positive media attention. Write letters to the editor. Call in on radio shows.

7. Victory!

Once your initiative passes or is approved, make sure you broadcast your victory! Prepare press releases with quotes from key campaign members and send it to your media list. Send copies of the ordinance to local, statewide, and national elected officials. Celebrate!

Practical tips & ideas for creating GE Free Zones

Community Outreach, Education & Empowerment!

The key to any campaign is educating your local community about genetically engineered crops and foods while providing them with concrete opportunities to get involved. Here are several action ideas to build your base of community support. Outreach and public education is the key to passing your initiative.

Here are several fun activities:

- Host a teach-in, workshop, panel or debate.
- Phone banking parties. Find a host, create a script (contact the OCA for suggestions) and have fun!
- Create a speakers bureau of local and national activists, business people, academics and scientists willing to speak on behalf of your initiative.
- Show a video like *The Future of Food* and host a discussion.
- Launch a web site and link to the Organic Consumers Association BioDemocracy Alliance website: www.organicconsumers.org/ge-free.htm
- Table and leaflet natural food coops, farmers markets, concerts, etc. Each and every community gathering is an opportunity to spread the word!
- Create an event calendar for your community

Need leaflets, info, etc.? Check out the BioDemocracy Alliance web page: www.organicconsumers.org/ge-free.htm

Organizing a Meeting:

Hosting a meeting of like-minded people could be your first step in your community outreach. Your action will be more effective with even a small group working together. Reach out to friends, neighbors, class mates, anyone who you think would be interested in helping out or learning more. Look for allies at natural food stores, restaurants, local nature centers, farmers' markets, alternative health centers—anywhere people are concerned about food, health or the environment.

- Publicize the meeting with flyers and personal contact. Written announcements should be followed up, when possible, with phone calls to remind people of the meeting.
- Plan the meeting: have clear goals, a structured agenda, and a timeline. Have a facilitator to keep the group focused on the agenda and to encourage participation. Have a timekeeper to keep the meeting on schedule. Have a note taker to keep minutes.
- Have a sign-in sheet, to collect contact information from everyone. Make it available so people can stay in touch.
- Break the ice: plan a fun, relaxing start to the meeting. Begin the meeting with introductions, have everyone say something about themselves or why they are interested in the issue.
- The facilitator should check with the group on “common understandings” for meeting process. For example, decide if people should raise hands or if they can just jump in to talk.
- The agenda: after introductions and common understandings, you'll get to the “business” of the meeting. “Brainstorming” can be a useful tool: this means exploring ideas from everyone in the group, without allowing any discussion or judgment of whether the ideas are possible or worthwhile. Keep brainstorming to a set time, but allow flexibility if lots of ideas are coming out. Then take time to choose ideas that the group wants to pursue, and prioritize these. There may be sub-groups, some people may want to pursue one approach while others prefer another.
- Get commitments: by the end of the meeting have an action plan with clear agreement from people who agree to take on certain tasks and a clear time for reporting on progress.

Suggested Goals for a Meeting

Any one or more of these would be a good start to your organizing:

- Plan a meeting with managers from a local supermarket.
- Plan to engage local food businesses (restaurants, food coops, natural food stores, etc) as allies.
- Plan educational events in the community; link with schools, fairs, other community organizations.
- Organize outreach to local media: set up groups to write letters to the editor and op-eds and make calls talk radio stations.
- Plan a meeting with your local Board of Supervisor or City Council Member.

Meeting with a Target

Once you have decided to meet with store management, potential allies, or elected officials, you should plan your meeting.

- Go into the meeting with a specific request in mind:
 - 1 · Create GE-Free Zones in your city, township or county.
 - 2 · Ask elected officials to support a specific bill, regulation, or policy. Ask them to put pressure on FDA, USDA, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
 - 3 · Ask allies to help spread the word, to display literature or host a meeting.
- Each member of your group should have something to say in the meeting. Keep it brief, but give each person a chance to speak.
- Bring background material: assume the person you are meeting with knows nothing about the issue. Bring fact sheets and articles that make your main points.
- Be polite. A meeting is the start of a relationship. The person you meet with may not agree or do what you want. Your follow-up (whether it's organizing a demonstration or another meeting with more people) is just as important and can lead to further communication down the road.
- If you are asked a question you can't answer, be honest. Offer to get back to the person at a later date. Contact the OCA with any questions.
- Phone the people you met with a week or so after the meeting, to see if there is any progress on commitments they made. Keep your group informed of any developments, and ready to act if agreements are not upheld.

Funding your Campaign

Fundraising is the backbone to any campaign. Elect a fundraising coordinator and treasurer. While the two are not the same, they will need to work together to win. Work with other committee members to design a budget and fundraising goal. Aim high, it is always better to have more money than less!

Tips for fundraising:

- Cultivate in county donations. This empowers local residents, while making your campaign more accountable and transparent. Keep in mind that you are more likely to reach your goal by many small donations than one or two big donations or grants.
- Organic Bake sales with organic coffee, tea, sodas, baked goods at farmers markets, schools, churches, etc.
- Contact local organic and conventional businesses to support your campaign, both monetarily and with an endorsement.
- Host benefit concerts, dinners, etc. Any opportunity where people can come together, build community and discuss the issue will create huge momentum for your initiative. Be creative and capitalize on your community's assets and inspiration.
- Mendocino County, California got a boost from their local natural foods coop, which offered to donate members discounts to the campaign
- Host a house party fundraiser! Invite friends for a night of organic and GE-Free food and drinks. For tips on hosting a house party, contact the OCA: ryan@organicconsumers.org
- On-line donations can also be useful. Contact Mike Strykowski from GMO-Free Humboldt (czinmike@aol.com) or Paypal (paypal.com) for more information.

Develop a Budget

First find out the total amount you need, by drafting a fundraising plan. A fundraising plan allows you to itemize and record, rather than estimate, the amount of each fundraising cost. The plan should also list all contributors, identifying the amount each one donated or could donate.

Contributions minus fundraising costs give you total revenue. This figure allows you to more efficiently map out your expenses according to your budget. Again, when calculating expenses, it is important to itemize costs.

If you find yourself exceeding your budget then you will get an idea of how much more money you need to raise. Or you may choose to focus on narrowing down your

expenses. Ask yourself, whether the expenditure is really necessary, determine exactly which goal it furthers and do your homework to find out if there is a cheaper way of achieving the same goal. It is helpful to allow yourself a contingency fund of 5-10% of the total fundraising goal in case unplanned expenditures arise.

How to Raise Money:

- Think about individuals or organizations that have a strong interest in the success of your campaign. Financial support could come from family members, friends, and colleagues as well as organizations, community leaders, and politicians.
- Make sure the person knows that they are making a worthwhile investment. Offer informational materials on goals, plans for achievement, and any progress already made.
- It is best to ask for a specified amount of money. Estimate how much the individual or organization may be able to contribute. In general, it is a good idea to aim too high, for example, if you ask for \$100 they might give you \$75, but if instead you ask for \$75, it isn't likely that they'll offer \$100.
- With large donations it is worthwhile to express gratitude in either a personal letter and/or by public acknowledgment.

Tracking the Money:

If you are with a volunteer group, see if you can find an accountant or bookkeeper to volunteer to keep track of your funds.

Different Kinds of Money:

If your group decides to operate as a non-profit or it is housed as a project of a non-profit, it is important to keep track of the type of money you are receiving, which may be "non-tax deductible," "tax-deductible," or "electioneering."

Source: *Grass Roots Organizing Training Manual* (Sierra Club)

Endorsements

Campaign endorsements establish credibility and guarantee prominence for your initiative. Make sure to include farmers (organic and conventional), elected leaders, medical and educational community, etc.

- Create a top 10 "Grass-Tops" or "Political Influentials" wish list, approach them, and get their support. While there is power in the masses, there is inspiration in local leaders, celebrities, athletes, etc.
- Facilitate endorsements with on-line forms
- We have included a sample endorsement form that can be utilized (See Annex 2 on page 8)

GET ACTIVE NATIONALLY, IT'S YOUR GOVERNMENT

There are currently several opportunities to active at the national level. Find below several bills currently in Congress.

Labeling Legislation: The Genetically Engineered Food Right to Know Act

This bill was introduced to the 106th Congress by Ohio Congressman Dennis Kucinich and then in the Senate, by California Senator Barbara Boxer. Look for updated legislation and a list of Congressional co-sponsors at www.thecampaign.org

Summary: Food that contains or is produced with GE material would have to be labeled. Genetically engineered material is material derived from a GE organism. A genetically engineered organism is defined here as an organism that has been altered at the molecular or cellular level by means that are not possible under natural conditions or processes. For example, foods containing genetically modified soy and genetically modified corn would have to be labeled. Plant varieties developed through traditional processes, such as crossbreeding, are not considered to be GE and would not have to be labeled. If the organism from which the food is derived has been injected or otherwise treated with a genetically engineered (GE) material or the animal from which the food is derived has been fed GE material, then the food is considered to have been produced with GE material. For example, foods that contain milk from a cow injected with GE hormones would have to be labeled.

For more information see: www.foe.org/safefood/boxer-s2080.htm · For a list of co-sponsors see: www.foe.org/safe-food/cosponsorsgefoodact.htm

Testing Legislation: The Genetically Engineered Food Safety Act

This bill was introduced to the 106th Congress by Senator Daniel Moynihan and by Ohio Congressman Dennis Kucinich. Look for updated legislation at www.thecampaign.org

Summary: The Federal Government has a duty to ensure that genetically engineered foods (GEFs) are safe to eat. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) currently requires rigorous pre-market review for pharmaceutical drugs, biological products, and medical devices introduced in the U.S. market. *(continued)*

For GEFs, however, FDA only asks the industry to submit safety data voluntarily. Even if industry fully complies, our concern is that a conflict of interest exists when an industry determines its own level of safety review for products it wants to promote. This bill would simply give FDA discretion to conduct its own safety testing of new GEFs and requires that certain factors are examined. GEFs on the market today will remain on the market as long as FDA also reviews these products for health safety. Much like the current practice, funding for these tests will come primarily from industry. A fee system will be developed that is modeled after FDA's current program for reviewing pharmaceuticals and supplemented by Federal funding. To read the bill see: www.thecampaign.org/S2315.htm · For state level legislation: www.foe.org · **Source:** www.thecampaign.org

What to do next? Find below two steps and lots of tips for making these two bills a reality

Step 1: Know who your representative and senators are: Visit: www.house.gov/house/MemberWWW_by_USA_Map.htm · ALSO: www.senate.gov/contacting/index_by_state.cfm

Step 2: Fill Up Your Lawmaker's Mail Box. A letter to an elected official is a powerful tool for community activists. It informs a representative of constituent concerns and lets a legislator know what actions he or she can take to address these concerns. While legislators might not read all letters personally, their assistants will read them and will pass on what constituents are saying. Many offices will keep a count of letters pro and con on different issues. Sometimes a particularly compelling letter from a constituent will be quoted in a hearing or debate or carried to a meeting on an issue. Furthermore, because relatively few people actually write letters, a few letters - or sometimes even a single letter- can have a big effect. Lawmakers understand that those who take the time to express their views on paper care deeply about issues and are likely to keep tabs on how the legislator acts on the points they have raised. Each letter is often assumed to represent the view of dozens or even hundreds of others. According to one member of Congress, there is a priority in "ranking" the impact of Congressional mail: Personal letters carry the greatest weight; form or standard letters bring slightly less influence; and petitions follow on that hierarchy.

General Tips:

Be brief · Limit your letter to one typed or hand written page, if possible. Attach a news clip or concise fact sheet, if appropriate.

Be specific · Focus on a single issue. If you are writing to a member of Congress or your state legislature about a specific bill, try to include the bill number or a clear description of the issue.

Be personal · Use your own words to express your concern. Explain how the issue affects you and your community.

Be informative · If you have expertise or specific knowledge, share it. If possible, try to provide information that the recipient doesn't already have.

Be informed · Show your familiarity with the subject and, if possible, with your legislator's voting record.

Be constructive · Don't just criticize. Give advice on how to change things for the better. Compliment the person to whom you are writing on positive actions they have taken in the past.

Be accurate · Check your facts. One inaccurate statement can undermine your whole letter.

Be selective · Only send your letter to the most appropriate people. In general, when writing to members of Congress, stick to your own representatives, because you will have much greater influence with them.

Request a reply. And include your return address and phone number.

Source: www.foe.org

Media

Utilizing the media can be an effective tool to educating the general populace as well as bring new allies into your coalition. Here are several tips to get you started.

- Create a media contact list. Here is a good place to start for national and local media: <http://capwiz.com/media/>
- Do your own media! For ideas and resources check out the SPIN Project (www.spinproject.org) or Indy-media (www.indymedia.org).
- Create and update press kits. Press kits are fantastic tools to promote your campaign with the press. Press kits generally include fact sheets, press releases, media advisories and letters to the editor. Two examples of press releases and letters to the editors are available in Annex 3 on page 8.

Useful internet tools*:

- Stay on top of the news in your county or city with "up to the minute" email updates from Google News www.google.com/newsalerts?hl=en
- Communicate with your coalition or committee members with an email list:

Yahoo Groups: www.groups.yahoo.com/start

Riseup: <http://help.riseup.net/lists/list-subscribers/creating-lists/>

- Meet Up: Connect with other like minded people in your area or announce upcoming events, gatherings or fundraisers www.meetup.com

(* The OCA is not affiliated with any of the online tools mentioned here—use at your own discretion)



ORGANIC CONSUMERS ASSOCIATION
6101 CLIFF ESTATE ROAD · LITTLE MARAIS, MN · 55614
218-226-4164 · 218-353-7652 fax · www.organicconsumers.org



AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE CULTIVATION OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CROPS

The people of the County of _____ do ordain as follows:
WHEREAS, Genetically Engineered (GE) crops have not been adequately tested by any federal agency for long-term impacts on human health or the environment, and
WHEREAS, patented Genetically Engineered seeds undermine local farmers' independence and solvency; and
WHEREAS, Among other things, scientific research has indicated that genetically engineered foods could have serious impacts on levels of toxins in food, antibiotic resistance, cancer, immuno-suppression, and allergic reaction, and may be particularly threatening to children and seniors; and
WHEREAS, the cultivation of Genetically Engineered crops will adversely effect the economic livelihood of the citizens of _____ and others outside the County of _____; and
WHEREAS, the prohibition of Genetically Engineered crops would strengthen local economies and businesses; and
WHEREAS, the passage of a County of _____ ordinance prohibiting the cultivation of Genetically Engineered crops would encourage others to do the same; and
WHEREAS, the regulation of Genetically Engineered crops in the County of _____ is a municipal affair and in the public interest.
WHEREAS the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and the Plant Pesticide Act provide local governments with jurisdiction with respect to human and environmental well-being:

NOW, THEREFORE, Be it Ordained as follows:
It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to propagate, cultivate, raise, or grow genetically modified organisms in _____ County.

Section 1. DEFINITIONS.

- (a) Genetically modified organisms means specific organisms whose native intrinsic DNA has been intentionally altered or amended with species or non species specific DNA. For purposes of this ordinance, genetic modification does not include organisms created by traditional breeding or hybridization, or to microorganisms created by moving genes or gene segments between unrelated bacteria.
- (b) DNA or deoxyribonucleic acid means a complex molecule that is present in every cell of an organism and is the 'blueprint' for the organism's development.
- (c) Organism means any living thing.
- (d) Agricultural Commissioner means the Agricultural Commissioner of _____ County.

Section 2. PENALTIES.

- (a) The Agricultural Commissioner shall notify any person, firm, or corporation that may be in violation of Section 2 of this Ordinance, that any organisms in violation of this Ordinance are subject to confiscation and destruction.
- (b) Any person, firm, or corporation that receives notification under subparagraph (a) shall have five (5) days to respond to such notification with evidence that such organisms are not in violation of this Ordinance.
- (c) Upon receipt of any evidence under paragraph (b), the Agricultural Commissioner shall consider such evidence and any other evidence that is presented or which is relevant to a determination of such violation. The Agricultural Commissioner shall make such determination as soon as possible, but at least before any genetic pollution may occur.
- (d) Upon making a determination that a violation of this Ordinance exists, the Agricultural Commissioner shall cause to be confiscated and destroyed any such organisms that are in violation of this Ordinance before any genetic pollution may occur.
- (e) If the Agricultural Commissioner determines there has been a violation of this Ordinance, in addition to confiscation and destruction of any organisms that are found to be in violation, the Agricultural Commissioner shall impose a monetary penalty on the person, firm, or corporation responsible for the violation, taking into account the amount of damage, any potential damage, and the willfulness of the person, firm, or corporation.

Section 3. SEVERABILITY.

The provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable and if any provision, sentence, clause, section, or part hereof is held illegal, invalid, unconstitutional, or inapplicable to any person or circumstance, such illegality, invalidity, unconstitutionality or inapplicability shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions, sentences, clauses, sections, or parts of this ordinance or their application to persons and circumstances.

Section 4 CONSTRUCTION

This ordinance shall be liberally construed to advance the purposes of this ordinance as described in the Evidence section bellow.

Section 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This ordinance shall take effect three months after it has been adopted at election.

Section 6. POSTING.

Copies of this Bill are hereby ordered published by posting with the vote thereon as required by law.

ANNEX 2

PERMISSION TO USE NAME AS SUPPORTER OF GMO INITIATIVE

Please check or fill in as appropriate:

You have permission to use my name in advertising or elsewhere as a supporter of the GMO Initiative titled
“ _____ ”

You also have permission to use the name of my business or organization
Name of Business or Organization: _____

I give permission to use a photo of me in ads and elsewhere as a supporter

I am willing to put up or have a sign put on my property prior to the election

Address of Property _____

I would like to volunteer to work on the Campaign for a GMO Free _____ ; please contact me.

I would like to contribute to the campaign for a GMO Free _____ .

Please make checks out to “Campaign Committee for a GMO Free _____ ”

Name _____

(please print)

Address: _____

Phone: _____ FAX: _____

Email: _____ Signature: _____

Please return forms to: GMO Free _____

(Address and phone number) _____

ANNEX 3

SAMPLE LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

Last year over 70 million acres of genetically engineered (GE) crops were grown in the United States. I am deeply concerned with the way these ingredients have been sneaked into the food on my grocery store shelves without proper safety testing. Has the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) fallen asleep at the wheel? Or have the special interest groups pressured them to look the other way? Upwards of two-thirds of all processed food on store shelves contains genetically engineered ingredients yet the FDA does not require safety testing of these foods. American food companies such as Kellogg's and Campbell's have agreed to not use GE ingredients in their European products but still do so in this country. Over 80% of Americans want these foods labeled, so they can avoid them.

Food companies should respect consumers' wishes and remove genetically engineered ingredients from their products until they have been safety tested and labeled for consumer health, just like any other food additive. The British Medical Association has called for a ban of genetically engineered food ingredients until further research into potential health and environmental impacts is conducted. Why then are American consumers being used as guinea pigs in Kraft's and Campbell's science experiments?

Sincerely,

SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 3, 2004

From: Organic Consumers Association/BioDemocracy Alliance

CONTACT:

Ronnie Cummins, Organic Consumers Association, 218-226-4164

Doug Mosel, GMO-Free Mendocino, 707-485-6672

TRINITY COUNTY CALIFORNIA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS VOTE TO BAN GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CROPS AND ANIMALS

San Francisco, CA:

Today Trinity County, California became the second county in the nation to ban the production of genetically engineered (GE) crops and animals. By a vote of 3-1, Trinity County Supervisors elected to ban GE crops and animals in an effort to protect Trinity's local economy and environment.

The proposed ordinance has been supported by a broad spectrum of Trinity residents, including farmers, businesses, home gardeners, nurseries, social workers, students, church people, teachers, environmentalists, government employees, and investment, computer, and health professionals.

"Today's vote follows 25 years of tradition in Trinity County, regarding the passage of common-sense ordinances that protect the well being of local citizens," said Susan Bower, local farmer and ban proponent.

The development and passing of the GE ban was supported by the BioDemocracy Alliance, a group that combines the resources and key staff of two organizations: the Organic Consumers Association, a national network of 500,000 organic consumers, and GMO Free Mendocino. GMO Free Mendocino is a new grassroots organization that ran the successful campaign to make Mendocino County, California the first county in the nation to ban the growing of genetically engineered crops.

According to Doug Mosel, GMO Free Mendocino coordinator and spokesperson for the BioDemocracy Alliance, "Trinity's vote for a sustainable and sound agriculture economy is an important first step in reclaiming control of our food supply."

Trinity County's decision reflects a growing movement across America to phase-out genetic engineering and to defend local agriculture, biodiversity and human health. Four additional California counties will vote in November to ban genetically engineered crops (Marin, Butte, Humboldt, and San Luis Obispo), while activists in dozens of other counties across the country are organizing to create similar "GE-Free" Zones.

"BioDemocracy is spreading throughout California and the United States," said Ronnie Cummins, spokesperson for the BioDemocracy Alliance and Director of the Organic Consumers Association. "In light of the lack of regulation at both the federal and state levels of these increasingly controversial GE crops, Trinity's Supervisors have taken an important step to protect their communities."

Trinity County's ban goes into effect 30 days from its passage.

Contact information for Trinity County representatives:

Drew Franklin: 530-623-2656

Joseph Bower: 530-628-5004

Learn more about the BioDemocracy Alliance and other counties working to pass similar bans here:

www.organicconsumers.org/ge-free.htm

ANNEX 4

RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

Recommended Reading

Stolen Harvest: The Hijacking of the Global Food Supply
by Vandana Shiva

*Seeds of Deception:
Exposing Industry and Government Lies About the Safety of
the Genetically Engineered Foods You're Eating*
by Jeffrey Smith, Foreword by Frances Moore Lappe

*Hungry for Profit: The Agribusiness Threat to Farmers, Food,
and the Environment*
- Fred Magdoff, John Bellamy Foster, Frederick Buttel edi-
tors

*Genetic Engineering: Dream or Nightmare?
Turning the Tide on the Brave New World of
Bad Science and Big Business*
by Mae-Wan Ho

Genetic Engineering, Food, and Our Environment
by Luke Anderson

*Genetically Engineered Food:
A Self-Defense Guide for Consumers*
by Ronnie Cummins and Ben Lilliston
Foreword by Frances Moore Lappe

*Genetically Engineered Food:
Changing the Nature of Nature - What You Need to Know
to Protect Yourself, Your Family, and Our Planet*
by Martin Teitel, Ph.D. and Kimberly Wilson
Foreword by Ralph Nader

County and State GE Free Campaigns

GMO Free Vermont: www.gefreevt.org
GE Free Maine: www.gefreemaine.org
GMO Free Hawaii: www.higean.org
Californians for GE Free Agriculture: www.calgefree.org
GMO Free Mendocino: www.gmofreemendo.com
GMO Free Alameda: www.gmofreeac.org
GMO Free Butte (CA): www.gefreebutte.com
GMO Free Humboldt (CA): www.growgmofree.org
GMO Free San Luis Obispo (CA): www.slogefree.org
GMO Free Marin: www.gmofreemarin.org
GMO Free Sonoma: www.gefreesonoma.org
Santa Barbara GE-Free: www.sbgefree.org

Other organizations working on Genetic Engineering:

GE Food Alert
www.gefoodalert.org

The Center for Food Safety (CFS)
www.centerforfoodsafety.org

Friends of the Earth (FoE)
www.foe.org

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP)
www.iatp.org

National Environmental Trust (NET)
www.environet.org

Pesticide Action Network, North America (PANNA)
www.panna.org

The State PIRG's - The State Public Interest Research
Groups (see your local chapter): www.pirg.org

Californians for GE Free Agriculture:
www.calgefree.org

Food First: www.foodfirst.org

Greenpeace: www.greenpeace.org

The Campaign: www.thecampaign.org

Third World Network: www.twinside.org.sg

Union of Concerned Scientists
www.ucsusa.org/index.html

Genetic Engineering Activist Network

Free the Planet: www.freetheplanet.org

Ecopedge: www.ecopedge.com

The Public Interest Research Groups
(PIRGs) www.uspirg.org

The Sierra Club: www.sierraclub.org

GE Food Alert Tutorial
www.panna.org/panna/resources/geTutorial.html