

## **A Progressive Approach to Genetically Modified Organisms**

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A new danger in foods has also come about in recent years because of good intentions: science trying to eradicate pests and reduce the effects of drought and other natural conditions that create hunger around the world. This science and the ability to alter an organism's genetic makeup have teamed to create conditions that are potentially dangerous to human beings and definitely dangerous to the world's food supply. Genetically modified foods interbreed with natural food supplies. Because they do not regenerate themselves, the ability of farmers to plant seed from one year to another is destroyed. So along with the eradication of a pest comes the need to purchase seed anew year after year – increasing corporate profit but contributing to poverty and hunger.

Besides tying the individual farmer to a cycle of corporate purchasing, the effect of gmo's on the human body is still unknown. In the U.S., congress has deemed them safe. Those of us who are still skeptical should have the right to buy or not buy – but corporate interests have again controlled the decisions made by our representatives, *and gmo's don't even have to be labeled!*

Consider this: genetically modified foods are illegal in Japan and the European Union! Japan's Minister of Agriculture has said they will "watch American children for ten years" to determine the effects! The food markets in these countries are therefore becoming more tightly restricted for U.S. farmers, as gmo's contaminate our natural food supply. The interbreeding of species includes tinkering so vegetables have more color, or tougher skins for shipping. Alterations include the genetic introduction of pesticides so fields can be sprayed and the vegetable won't be damaged...but will we?

The companies that hold the patents on these life forms – patents that PDA would work to rescind – are flexing their muscle to make it illegal in some countries to save and use natural seed products. In the U.S., they have been successful in their fight to hold organic farmers responsible when these new life forms cross-pollinate! PDA believes that this trend should be fully reversed, that natural seed crops should be protected, and that the developers of gmo's should be held 100% liable for any contamination.

Progressive Democrats of America wants to be clear that the use of genetically modified organisms for the curing of disease and as solutions to otherwise unsolvable food problems is encouraged and supported. However, these entities must be tightly controlled and clearly labeled so every citizen can make his or her own decision about whether to utilize these products. We believe the use of created solutions will be very few if we utilize our resources and technology to promote efficient natural remedies, support local farming and educate users, however.