



The Environmental Action Committee of West Marin

October 30, 2004

Readers' Forum
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To the editor:

We in Marin have the opportunity on November 2 to vote for clean and natural food, for a healthy environment, and for a strong agricultural economy. You can do all these things by voting Yes on Measure B, which bans the cultivation of genetically engineered crops in Marin.

Measure B will keep our locally-grown food free of genetic contamination. Genetically engineered crops and food have not been proven safe. Neither the U.S. government nor the state of California conducts any independent safety testing of GE food. Why should we be guinea pigs for a corporate experiment? Genetic pollution can never be reversed; but a voter initiative can be fine-tuned in the future if GE proves to be safe.

Measure B preserves a world-wide market for Marin's agricultural products, worth \$50,000,000 a year. Much of the world has already rejected genetically engineered crops. Japanese and European markets restrict or refuse our genetically engineered exports.

Measure B will help preserve a clean environment in Marin County. Despite claims to the contrary by Monsanto, Dow and the other biotech giants, USDA reports and independent studies show that more pesticides are used with genetically engineered crops than with natural crops.

Measure B ensures that research and the development of medicines will continue. It will not close biotech labs or prohibit the sale of foods in stores. Measure B will not raise taxes or cut services.

Measure B is supported by Marin's environmental groups and by many Marin County farmers, physicians, and elected officials including the Marin Board of Supervisors and Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey. Please join us in voting Yes on Measure B on November 2.

Signed by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine Caufield".

Catherine Caufield
Environmental Action Committee of West Marin

Scott Feierabend
Marin Conservation League (called and emailed to confirm signature)

Alex Forman
Sierra Club, Marin Group (called and emailed to confirm signature)