



CCOF

Organic Certification Trade Association Education & Outreach Political Advocacy



July 27, 2006

The Honorable Dean Florez
State Capitol, Room 5061
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Oppose SB 1056 (Florez)

Dear Senator Florez:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Board of Directors of California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF), representing approximately 1,400 certified organic producers in California. CCOF is opposed to the passage of SB 1056, and we urge you not to move this bill.

As I am sure you are aware, organic agriculture is the fastest growing segment of California agriculture, and California remains a world leader in sustainable and organic food production. The production of genetically engineered crops presents a considerable threat to the economic well being of organic farmers whose customers demand products free of genetically engineered ingredients. The State of California has no legislation regarding genetic engineering, no economic protections for harms to farmers or the environment, no procedures to provide remedies or recourse for farmers in the event of contamination, and no regulation reducing the potential for contamination. In the absence of state legislation, we maintain that local governments have the right and the responsibility to protect their farmers, consumers and environment from the potential harms associated with genetic engineering.

On behalf of CCOF and its certified organic members, I urge you to reconsider your sponsorship of SB 1056, and ask that you withdraw this bill.

Sincerely,

Peggy Miars
Executive Director
California Certified Organic Farmers

cc: Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez
Senate President Pro-Tem Don Perata