

BEFORE
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF MADERA
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of)	Resolution No.: <u>2005 - 153</u>
)	
THE USE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY)	A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE
)	USE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY FOR THE
)	HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF
)	COUNTY CITIZENS

WHEREAS, biotechnology has the potential to greatly improve the health, nutrition and economic vitality of all humanity; and

WHEREAS, biotechnology holds the key to the development of crops that can be used to create new energy sources, provide more nutrients, treat diseases, or serve as vaccines to prevent diseases; and

WHEREAS, biotechnology holds the key to the discovery of cures for such life-threatening diseases as HIV/AIDS, Alzheimer's, diabetes, cancer and myriad other diseases that currently possess no cure; and

WHEREAS, biotechnology can make the food we eat safer, more nutritious and free from allergens; and

WHEREAS, the use of biotechnology in agriculture has enhanced the well-being and environmental stewardship of communities through reduced pesticide use and exposure to other environmental factors; and

WHEREAS, improvement of the San Joaquin Valley's air quality is essential, biotechnology is a key tool in the future to assist in the control of both particulate matter and ozone forming emissions through reduction of cultivated activities such as tillage and windblown soil erosion; and minimizing pesticide applications; and

WHEREAS, the San Joaquin Valley's water quality is vital, biotechnology is, again, a key tool in the future to assist in the control of sediment, nutrient and pesticide runoff into waterways through the reduction of pesticide use and need of tillage in the fields; and

WHEREAS, less inputs, higher crop yields, and healthier plants have and will continue to greatly enhance the vitality of a struggling agriculture economy by providing production choices to the farmer; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has been regulating the production and introduction of biotechnology-enhanced crops for almost two decades and those new crops go through an extensive multi-year testing process before the new crop is approved to be grown on a commercial basis; and

WHEREAS, the Food and Drug Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Department of Agriculture all must consent to the introduction of new biotechnology crops into the market, making these crops the most highly regulated and scrutinized foods in the world; and

WHEREAS, more than 3,400 scientists, 20 Nobel Prize winners, the American Dietetic Association, American Medical Association, the National Academy of Sciences, the European Commission and others have expressed confidence in the safety of biotechnology crops for human health and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the current and future developments of biotechnology in crops will represent a significant leap in addressing the hunger and nutritional needs of the world's more than 8.3 billion people by the year 2025; and

WHEREAS, agriculture plays a significant role in the economy of Madera County, grossing more than \$760.7 million annually and contributing millions of dollars each year as our number one economic engine; and

WHEREAS, Madera County ranks 14th in California and 23rd in the nation for agricultural products grown for domestic and foreign consumption; and

WHEREAS, Madera County embraces our agriculture community and recognizes its significant contribution to our economy and way of life; and

WHEREAS, the University of California and the California State University systems are world leaders in biotechnology research, recognizing that science is the driving force behind innovation and technology advancement and has been a key driver for California's agricultural success; and

WHEREAS, patchwork county-by-county regulation of biotechnology suppresses important scientific developments, dismantles California's leading research and development infrastructure, undermines the farmer's choice and flexibility to meet market and environmental demands and is unnecessary, given the coordinated federal framework for regulating biotechnology; and

WHEREAS, Madera County has embraced agriculture since its inception and that agriculture is woven into the very fabric of both Madera County and the State of California as demonstrated by being a leading producer of food and fiber in the state; and

WHEREAS, the only way to ensure that agriculture remains a part of our lifestyle, economy and character is to allow our farmers and ranchers the choice of the same promising technology currently used by agriculturalists around the world.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that:

1. The County of Madera affirms the right for farmers and ranchers to choose to utilize the widest range of technologies available to produce a safe, healthy, abundant and affordable food supply, and that the safe, federally regulated use of biotechnology is a promising component of progressive agricultural production.

2. The County of Madera affirms that biotechnology is a bright light in the future of agriculture and the ability to use biotechnology in agriculture is a key factor by which farmers and ranchers can stay competitive in the global marketplace.

3. The County of Madera affirms that the environmental and health benefits of biotechnology are important to the long-term sustainability and enhancement of our community's way of life.

4. The County of Madera will make every effort to preserve the choice of using biotechnology in its county and encourage the establishment of a state or national biotechnology policy to allow equal access to its use.

* * * * *

The foregoing Resolution was adopted this 14th day of June,

2005, by the following vote:

Supervisor Bigelow voted:	<u>Yes</u>
Supervisor Moss voted:	<u>yes</u>
Supervisor Dominici voted:	<u>yes</u>
Supervisor Rodriguez voted:	<u>yes</u>
Supervisor Gilbert voted:	<u>Absent</u>



Frank Bigelow
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Ann M. McHenry
Clerk, Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:
County Counsel

[Signature]