

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SUTTER, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

IN THE MATTER OF)
THE USE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY)

RESOLUTION NO. 05-15

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

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

WHEREAS, improvement of the Sacramento Valley's air quality is essential, agricultural biotechnology can assist in the control of both particulate matter and ozone forming emissions through reduction of cultivated activities; and

WHEREAS, the Sacramento Valley's water quality is vital, agricultural biotechnology can assist in the control of sediment, nutrient and pesticide runoff into waterways through the reduction of pesticide use and 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 agricultural 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, the current and future developments of biotechnology in agriculture 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 Sutter County, grossing more than \$1 billion annually; and

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

WHEREAS, the only way to ensure that agriculture remains a part of Sutter County's 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 the County of Sutter 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 exclusive federal regulation of biotechnology is the key to policy certainty and grower choice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County of Sutter affirms that biotechnology is key to the future of agriculture and that the ability to use biotechnology in agriculture is critical if farmers and ranchers are to stay competitive in the global marketplace.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County of Sutter affirms that the environmental and health benefits of biotechnology are important to the long-term sustainability and enhancement of our agriculture community and the county's way of life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County of Sutter will make every effort to preserve the choice of using biotechnology in agriculture in this county.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 5th day of April, 2005, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Supervisors Montna, Nelson, Munger, Whiteaker, and Silva

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

ATTEST:

JOAN BECHTEL, CLERK

By: 

Karna-Lisa Aucoin, Deputy




Jim Whiteaker, Chairman