An open letter to California voters from an Iowa pro-GM farmer: "Prop 37 impacts me too"

Dear Californian,

I can't vote on Proposition 37 this Election Day, but I'm watching it closely, all the way from my farm in Iowa.

This ballot initiative isn't just bad for California-it's bad for America.

Here's the problem: Prop 37 is an extremist measure that will raise food prices without making food safer or consumers more knowledgeable. Worst of all, it will stifle innovation all over the United States.

The fundamental idea behind Prop 37 is that there's something wrong with the kind of food I've raised and you've eaten for more than 15 years. This is a strange claim because there's nothing unusual about my corn and soybeans. They're just like the vast majority of the corn and soybeans planted and harvested in California and elsewhere: genetically modified to resist weeds and pests.

Because these crops carry a natural resistance to weeds that steal moisture and insects that munch on roots and leaves, they grow stronger and healthier. This means more food and better food for everyone—and less dependence on herbicides and pesticides.

American food security and the health of our environment depend on biotechnology. It allows us to grow more food on less land, which is the very definition of sustainable agriculture.

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