

'Urban farmers' behind GMO labeling initiatives

When the "in" crowd wrests the levers of power from the "out" crowd, be ready to duck. Trendy slogans may well become administrative fiat. Authoritarian fashion-sense often relies on poor reasoning and an even poorer respect for individual autonomy.

For a case in point, look no further than the intensifying push for genetically modified labeling in Colorado (pending state motto: "We're Cooler than California").

Genetically modified foods are definitely "out" for Colorado's urban-farmer *blisterati*, and they want the state to help make their case. [Proposition 105](#), like California's failed [Prop 37](#), asks Colorado voters whether it ought to be mandatory to include labels on all products containing genetically modified ingredients.

Coloradans might just outdo those Pacific-fronting pikers on this one, as happened with marijuana. Weed is hip, even good for you. Genetically modifying food? "That's just not cool, man . . ."

Consider the contradiction:

After removing overstepping authority on recreational, relatively harmless psychoactive drugs, the "in" crowd immediately does an about-face and asks the state to regulate its food. You cannot, if you love freedom and trust the individual, have it both ways.

Authoritarian rules, in addition to eroding self-government, invariably create unintended consequences. Two that we can already foresee are 1) misleading people, and 2) putting small, organic farmers out of business.

Is there no system to get the labeling that proponents want without relying on the same ridiculous technocrats who tell us we can't buy [raw milk](#) for our families?

Of course there is.

The [Non-GMO Project](#), a private non-profit, has been actively vetting brands for almost a decade, and has over 20,000 products stamped with its distinctive rainbow-hued butterfly. The project works, and works well. Could we imagine a state agency doing half as well? Even the most devoutly abstinent Colorado foodie, I'm sure, can manage an organic lifestyle if there are 20,000 products to choose from (add one more if we get our beef jerky approved!).

Read full, original post: [Modified: GMO Labels that Actually Work](#)