## No Love in Boulder for Colorado's GMO Labeling Proposition

Boulder is ... home to <u>several world-renowned scientific organizations</u>, as well as the University of Colorado-Boulder. It's worth noting that the American scientific community leans left, politically speaking: A 2009 survey of members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) found that 55 percent of respondents identified as Democrats, 31 percent as Independents and only 6 percent as Republicans. I suspect that the Boulder scientific community is skewed along similar lines and that local scientists are engaged in local politics.

I wondered if the Boulder County Democratic Party's non-endorsement of GMO labeling was influenced by the scientific community. Maybe, I thought, scientists are more likely to understand GE [genetically engineered] technology and the scientific consensus on the health and safety of GMOs?

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Of the dozen scientists I talked to, none supported Proposition 105 and none had any concerns about the health and safety of genetically modified foods. (A 2011 Demographic Profile by the Boulder Economic Council found 34.8 percent of Boulder residents hold advanced degrees compared to the U.S. average of 10.4 percent. That's a lot of highly educated people.)

This exercise gave me some hope. Maybe it is possible for us to educate our way out of politically polluted scientific debates?

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