



# Far West Agribusiness Association

## Statement of Opposition to I-522

*February 14, 2013*

I-522 is a Washington State Initiative which would require the disclosure of food produced through genetic engineering in the form of food labeling. It would falsely imply indistinguishable differences between GMO foods and those produced using traditional methods. It has the potential to be expensive for the State to administer and raise the overall cost of food to consumers. Both the U.S. Food & Drug Administration and the American Medical Association have stated that there is no significant difference between GMO and traditional types of foods.

Mandatory labeling of foods produced using biotechnology will inhibit the adoption of new technologies that could benefit agricultural producers within Washington State and neighboring states. In the event that Washington State and neighboring states do adopt mandatory GMO labeling legislation then the research, testing and implementation of this emerging technology could relocate to other countries. One such country is China where the technology is readily accepted and is a means to feed their people. The country who leads in biotechnology is expected to experience an economic boost which will last for years.

The Far West Agribusiness Association is opposed to limiting the future possibilities of agricultural production in Washington State and is therefore opposed to Initiative 522.