

Submission Cover Sheet

Review of the Moratorium on GM Canola

Submission Number: 154

Name of Individual/Organisation: Gina Zoglakis

Date Received: 9 August 2007

Number of Pages: 1

Attachments Submitted with this Submission:

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GM Canola Review Panel Secretariat
Department of Primary Industries
Level 19, 1 Spring Street
GPO Box 4440
Melbourne VIC 3001

Department of
Primary Industries

9 AUG 2007

MAIL SERVICE CENTRE

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: GM Canola review for Victoria

As a mother of a young family I love the fact that I don't have to worry about there being genetically modified canola in the food I buy for my family. I would really resent having to check every single item I purchase to ensure that the products were GM free. Lifting the ban on GM canola would create confusion and suspicion in the shopping aisles where it's already extremely difficult to make informed purchasing decisions.

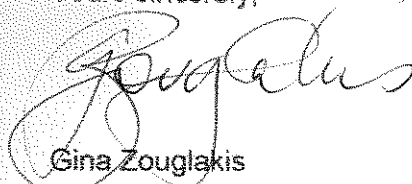
I don't believe that genetically modifying a plant will drastically increase its yield. Members of my family farm canola (amongst other things) and from what they say growing a GM canola will give them nothing but headaches. The way they farm will become complicated and steeped in bureaucracy – life is already difficult on the land without having to worry about whether your crop is being contaminated by or is contaminating a neighbouring crop.

The swaying yellow-flowered crops planted by my brother-in-law are testament to a healthy plant with an already high yield which does its part to support his family's livelihood. When harvested he can run his sheep over the crop without fear of them being affected by any GM elements in the remaining stalks and grass which increases the confidence he has that the food he is producing is safe and healthy.

He also has the confidence of being able to plant the seeds from his own crop – why should he be dictated to by large GM seed monopolies. I would hate to think there would be a chance that he and his friends would be pressured by the seed giants for not using the seed they sell. I find this disgusting as it goes against everything farming embodies – when did it all become about a few getting richer at the expense of the battler?! The point is that a farmer should be able to build up his own seed base to sow the following year which in dollar terms increases his profit as there is no initial seed outlay. Generations have farmed in this way to support their families and stay on the land.

The world moves so quickly and Australia needs to slow down and consider its place in the canola market. How fantastic that our canola can be sold for so much more because it has the real advantage of being GM free. This will only get better in the future as more and more markets open up to allowing only GM free products through their doors. Lets not ruin the future for our emerging generations – lets remain "clean, green and safe" for generations to come.

Yours sincerely,



Gina Zouglakis

CC: Premier John Brumby
1 Treasury Place
Melbourne VIC 3000