



Know your environment.
Protect your health.

GMO Food Labeling & the Updated Senate DARK Act (Roberts #3450 to S. 764)

In 2014, Vermont became the first state to pass a standalone mandatory GMO labeling law, which will go into effect July 1, 2016. Connecticut and Maine have also passed GMO labeling laws that will go into effect once neighboring states pass similar laws and many others are considering such legislation. In response to these state efforts, legislation developed by some food companies – dubbed the Deny Americans the Right to Know or DARK Act - was passed by the House of Representatives in July 2015. Similar legislation (S. 2609) was recently passed out of the Senate Agriculture Committee and a [new version](#) of that bill (Roberts Amendment #3450 to House amendment to S. 764) was filed on the Senate floor on March 14, 2016.

The most recent Senate version of the “Deny Americans the Right to Know” (DARK) Act would:

- Preempt states from requiring the labeling of GMO foods.
- Continue the current, broken voluntary labeling system by permitting companies to use 1-800 numbers, URLs, QR codes and even social media to provide consumers with GMO information.
- Allow USDA to determine what GMO information is provided through the voluntary labeling system.
- Permit the USDA to require the use of 1-800 numbers, URLs, QR codes or other off-pack disclosure five years after enactment.
- Make it harder for companies like Campbell’s Soup to voluntarily disclose the presence of GMOs.

Americans want the Right to Know:

- Polls show 90 percent of Americans support on package labeling of GMO food.
- [New analysis](#) by the digital marketing agency [HZDG](#) suggests that most consumers have not used QR – for “Quick Response” – codes and aren’t likely to use them any time soon.
- [64 nations require labeling](#) including Russia, China, the EU, and important trading partners in Asia.
- More than [1.4 million Americans have joined a petition](#) urging FDA to require labeling of GMO food.
- More than [700](#) companies, business leaders and organizations oppose the DARK Act.
- More than [125 CEOs have written](#) to Congress to oppose the DARK Act.
- Chef Tom Colicchio and 4,000 chefs from 37 different states signed Food Policy Action’s [petition](#) opposing the DARK Act.

Dispelling GMO Labeling Myths:

- **GMO labeling [will not increase food prices.](#)** Companies frequently change labels to highlight new innovations or to make new claims.
- **Voluntary labeling will not work.** Companies have been allowed to make voluntary non-GMO disclosures since 2001, but consumers are more [confused](#) than ever.
- **[There is no “patchwork quilt.”](#)** Current state GMO labeling laws are virtually identical, so there will be no “patchwork quilt” of different state laws. The responsible solution to concerns over a possible future patchwork would be the establishment of a uniform, national mandatory labeling standard.
- **GMO crops [do not feed the world.](#)** Conventional and GMO corn and soybean yields have increased at the same rate.
- **GMO crops have increased herbicide applications.** Widespread adoption of GMO crops has increased annual applications of glyphosate – a probable human carcinogen – from 16 million pounds to [more than 280 million pounds](#), making it the [most widely used herbicide in history](#).

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