

# Organic Consumers Association Petitions Michelle Obama to take a stand for GMOs labels

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**Organic Consumers  
Association Petitions Michelle  
Obama to Pressure President  
Obama to Honor Campaign  
Promise to Label GMOs**

The Organic Consumers  
Association (OCA) today

launched a national [petition](#) on SignOn.org asking Michelle Obama to pressure President Obama to honor his 2007 campaign promise to support the labeling of genetically modified foods. The petition also asks President Obama to endorse California's Proposition 37, a Nov. 6 citizens' ballot initiative that would require mandatory labeling of genetically engineered food ingredients.

"Michelle Obama is a champion of better nutrition in school lunches and of ending childhood obesity," said Ronnie Cummins, executive director of the OCA. "We believe that if she is truly serious about children's health issues, she will support labeling of genetically engineered foods. We urge her to put pressure on the President to honor his campaign promise to support GMO labeling and to officially endorse Prop 37."

In 2007, Candidate Obama [made this statement](#) to a crowd of voters in Iowa:

'We'll let folks know whether their food has been genetically modified, because Americans should know what they're buying.'

National polls indicate that more than 90% of Americans want GMOs labeled. And yet, President Obama has continued to green light a flood of new GMOs, including genetically engineered alfalfa, salmon, and 2,4 D "Agent Orange" corn. He has not publicly supported any of the state or national efforts to require mandatory GMO labeling, despite his campaign promise.

The FDA does no pre-market safety testing on genetically engineered foods, instead relying on the word of Monsanto, Dupont and other biotech companies that these foods are safe. However, a growing number of studies link genetically modified foods to a host of health issues, including obesity and allergies. Even the American Medical Association has recently warned that GMO foods need to be safety-tested before they are placed on the market.

"Nearly 80% of all non-organic processed foods in the U.S. contain GMOs," Cummins said. "Without labeling, it is very difficult to keep these foods out of our - and our kids' - diets. Worse yet, as long as consumers don't know when they are eating genetically engineered foods, they can't trace health issues, such as allergies, to the genetically engineered ingredients in their food."

In a visit to an elementary school in January, in Alexandria, Va., [Mrs. Obama said](#): "We have a right to expect the food (our kids) get at school is the same kind of food we want to serve at our own kitchen tables."

"We encourage everyone who believes in the right to know what's in their food, to sign this petition today," Cummins said. "If Mrs. Obama hears from hundreds of thousands of voters on this issue, we hope she'll be able to

persuade the President to do the right thing, and keep his word."

If Prop 37 passes in November, California will become the first state in the country to require what nearly 50 other nations in the world already require: labels on genetically engineered foods.

*This release was previously published in august 2012.*

*The Organic Consumers Association (OCA) is an online and grassroots non-profit 501(c)3 public interest organization campaigning for health, justice, and sustainability. The Organic Consumers Fund is a 501(c)4 allied organization of the Organic Consumers Association, focused on grassroots lobbying and legislative action.*

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