Dr. Bronner’s No Longer With Organic Trade Assoc. Saying They Betrayed GMO Labeling Movement

Most of our readers are familiar with Dr. Bronner’s, the largest soap and body care products company in the natural and organic sector. The company supports an increased minimum wage, cannabis reform, animal welfare rights, and has a long history of supporting the organic movement.

The Organic Trade Association, aka OTA, is a membership-based business association for the organic business community in North America. OTA claims to promote the growth of organic trade to benefit the environment, farmers, and the public. The OTA recently disillusioned consumers who are fighting for GMO labeling by supporting the DARK act. In response, Dr. Bronners has cut ties with the organization.

> *Dr. Bronner’s, North America’s leading natural brand of soap and organic body care products, has resigned from the Organic Trade Association (OTA), citing the association’s betrayal of the consumer-led GMO labeling movement, and general drift away from the core principles that drive the organic movement. The OTA compromised their initial position of opposition to the DARK Act and lent the crucial support that allowed anti-labeling legislators to push that same legislation through the Senate and be signed into law by President Obama this summer.” – Dr. Bronner’s*

Dr. Bronner’s has pledged to redirect its organizational resources to organizations that “…more authentically and courageously…” promote organic, sustainable agriculture.

We are particularly thrilled to support the Rodale Institute's new Organic Farming Association and the expansion of their regional teaching farms across the country, as well as participate in the North American General Assembly of the International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements (IFOAM) at Expo East," says Dr. Bronner's Cosmic Engagement Officer (CEO), David Bronner. "We encourage all true organic companies, whether they choose to remain a part of the OTA or not, to support and participate in both," continues Bronner.

This DARK Act was made possible in large part by what I and other movement leaders see clearly as the Organic Trade Association's (OTA's) betrayal of the movement to mandate labeling of GMOs in America, forever preempting Vermont and all other states from mandating disclosure of GMOs on packaging." – David Bronner, Huffington Post

Late July President Obama ignored roughly 250,000 petitioners by signing Senate Bill 764, otherwise known as The DARK Act, into law. It's a compromise bill developed by food companies that creates mandatory, standard, national labeling for GMO foods. The problem with the bill is that it does not provide a simple label disclosure on the package. It also eliminated the ability of individual states to force labeling. And to make matters worse, as the bill is written, this law might not even apply to genetically modified ingredients derived from soy and sugar beets. Companies will have the choice of using clear text, a GMO a symbol, or a digital link like the QR code. It's assumed by consumer advocates that companies will choose to use the QR code, forcing consumers to be both vigilant and technologically savvy, which they say is not likely for people on lower incomes.

Professor Laura Murphy is the director of the Environmental & Natural Resources Law Clinic at Vermont Law School. She says,

If Congress were really interested in providing consumers

with information, it could have adopted Vermont's on-package label that companies are already using across the country. Instead, Congress created a mechanism for companies to hide behind QR codes and trample on state efforts to provide their citizens with actual information. As if this weren't bad enough, the federal law has a confusing definition of 'bioengineering' that gives USDA the authority to determine how much of a product needs to be bioengineered before a label is required, and prevents even the food companies from certain types of disclosure." – ER News

Conclusion

With Bayer merging with Monsanto, the TPP deal, globalization, and industry monopolization, It's time to grow your own food! Don't buy processed food. Stick to the produce and bulk sections. When GMOs can't be avoided, take high-quality probiotics daily.

Recommended Reading:

- *Understanding and Detoxifying Genetically Modified Foods*
- *Gluten, Candida, Leaky Gut Syndrome, and Autoimmune Diseases*
- *How to Start a Vegetable Garden – How to Grow Vegetables*
- *The Difference Between Heirlooms, Hybrids, and GMOs*
- *Scientists Against GMOs– Hear From Those Who Have Done the Research*

Sources:

- *Dr. Bronner's Resigns From Organic Trade Assoc. Citing Betrayal Of GMO Labeling Movement* – March Against Monsanto
- *Bronner's Announces Resignation from the Organic Trade Association and Escalates Commitment to Organic Agriculture and Other* – Dr. Bronner's

- *The DARK Act – Just Label It*
- *Obama Expands Monsanto Doctrine By Signing DARK Act And Invalidating Vermont GMO Labeling Law* – Huffington Post