

McDonald's Shareholder Meeting
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The National Center for Public Policy Research
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I'm Justin Danhof of the National Center for Public Policy Research, representing my colleague at the National Center, Amy Ridenour. I rise to move proposal number eight.

Our proposal asks the company to defend its products and promote the safety and benefit of Genetically Modified Organisms. Companies whose products may contain GMOs, such as McDonald's, are harmed by the public's ignorance on the issue.

With more than 2,000 global scientific studies on genetically engineered foods, the evidence is clear; GMOs are perfectly safe. The debate is over. Despite this scientific consensus, anti-GMO activists, such as the last proponent, continue to sow fear and doubt. Their actions are ignorant and inhumane. Polling data shows that nearly four in ten Americans are misinformed about GMO safety and more than nine in ten are not aware of the unnecessary cost and unscientific rationale of GMO labeling. That ignorance harms the company and the developing world where malnutrition is sometimes exacerbated by resistance to GMO technology.

Scientific American has reported that the delayed application of Vitamin A-enhanced Golden Rice thanks to controversies stirred by anti-GMO activists had cost over 1.4 million life years in India alone since 2002. This is real human suffering and death. And it is children who too often suffer the most.

If the company does not stand up for its products, not only will uneducated folks, such as the last shareholder proponent, continue to attack the company, but also hunger, malnutrition and death can rightly be blamed at McDonald's feat. Abdicating your responsibility as a major international brand – the iconic “Golden Arches” with trillions of meals served – is shameful.

I urge my fellow shareholders to support the promise of GMOs and vote for proposal eight.

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