

General Mills Shareholder Meeting Question
Justin Danhof, Esq.
General Counsel and Free Enterprise Project Director
The National Center for Public Policy Research
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I'm Justin Danhof, speaking as a representative of shareholder Anthony Conte.

I want to commend the shareholders for rejecting Proposal Five, which called for the removal of GMOs from our company's products. I also want to ask the company to do more to defend its products and the promise of GMOs.

Anti-GMO activists, such as Proposal Five's proponent, are part of a wide-scale, anti-scientific effort to scare Americans away from perfectly healthy foods and life-saving technological agricultural advancements.

Numerous scientific bodies have determined that GMO foods are safe, including:

- The National Academy of Sciences
- The American Association for the Advancement of Science
- The American Medical Association – which has unequivocally stated that “Bioengineered foods have been consumed for ... 20 years and, and during that time, no overt consequences on human health have been reported and/or substantiated in the peer-reviewed literature.”ⁱ
- The Royal Society of Medicine
- The World Health Organization

In fact, the Genetic Literacy Project has noted that with “2000+ global studies affirming safety, GM foods [are] among the most analyzed subjects in science.”ⁱⁱ

By publicly removing GM ingredients from Cheerios, the company put a target on its back for these anti-science activists to exploit.ⁱⁱⁱ And now they are here promoting junk science.

The organic food industry has been funding calls for mandatory labeling and GMO removal because it believes such labels will scare people and cause them to buy more organic products. In other words, they are in it for the money. But their greed is causing real human anguish.

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.^{iv} This is real human suffering and death. And it is children who too often suffer the most.

The anti-GMO attacks come from Americans and western Europeans who have likely never missed a meal in their lives. Their campaigns against GMOs are unscientific, fear-based and inhumane.

GMO foods are a great gift to mankind. They lower food costs, allow farmers to produce food in a more sustainable way, and, as Bill Gates and the Gates Foundation have pointed out, show great promise for ending world hunger and malnutrition.^v

This year, I have talked with Hugh Grant of Monsanto, Indra Nooyi of Pepsi, Tony Vernon of Kraft Foods about GMOs and each of them agree that the entire food industry – from seed developer through the final product – needs to do more to promote the promise of GMOS.

So my question is this: Would you consider making your company's health scientists, nutrition specialists and you yourself, Mr. Powell, available to the American and international media to combat the unscientific activists and stand up for the promise of GMOs?

Contact:

David Almasi at (202) 543-4110 x11 or (703) 568-4727 (text-enabled) or dalmasi@nationalcenter.org

Judy Kent at (703) 759-7476 or jkent@nationalcenter.org

The National Center for Public Policy Research
501 Capitol Court NE
Washington DC 20002
(202) 543-4110
www.nationalcenter.org
www.conservativeblog.org
@NationalCenter

ⁱ <http://www.geneticliteracyproject.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/climateGMOconsensus.pdf>

ⁱⁱ <http://www.geneticliteracyproject.org/2013/10/08/with-2000-global-studies-confirming-safety-gm-foods-among-most-analyzed-subject-in-science/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2014/01/02/cheerios-gmos-cereals/4295739/>

^{iv} <http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/guest-blog/2014/03/15/golden-rice-opponents-should-be-held-accountable-for-health-problems-linked-to-vitamain-a-deficiency/>

^v <http://www.gatesfoundation.org/What-We-Do/Global-Development/Agricultural-Development>