

**Starbucks Shareholder Meeting Question**  
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I'm Justin Danhof, representing the National Center for Public Policy Research, a free-market think-tank and a company shareholder.

Mr. Schultz, Starbucks has come under fire from anti-GMO activists. A MoveOn.org website petition<sup>1</sup> with more than 80,000 signers threatened to boycott this Company unless it made "a substantial donation" supporting a GMO labeling initiative in this state.

Multiple shareholder resolutions aimed at forcing the Company to remove all products containing GMOs have been filed.<sup>2</sup>

And just this month a coalition of activists<sup>3</sup> working with various companies launched a campaign<sup>4</sup> to force this Company to serve ONLY milk produced from cows that are not fed GMOs, without regard to the views of our Company's customers or the fact that this Company already offers dairy milk free of bovine growth hormones and an organic soy milk alternative.

Anti-GMO arguments often are based more on fear than science, and they have undermined use of a technology that is good for the environment, reduces costs, and -- if the activists would get out of the way -- saves lives.

Just last week Scientific American reported<sup>5</sup> 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.

The Scientific American commentary said, briefly: "The majority of those who went blind or died because they did not have access to Golden Rice were children. These are real deaths, real disability, real suffering, not the phantom fears about the human health effects of Golden Rice thrown around by opponents, none of which have held up to objective scientific scrutiny."

Mr. Schultz, by refusing to bend to the unscientific fears of the anti-GMO crowd, you also are standing up for the future of children in India and elsewhere who may die or lose their sight because they don't have access to a GMO. We applaud you for that.

A now a quick question, and I will sit down.

Some of the companies that are now working with those who are engaged in pressuring this Company to reject GMOs sell organic milk, coffee beans, paper supplies and other products that this company uses. Can we, the shareholders, be confident that this firm will avoid buying products from firms that are working with activists to pressure this company to work against sound science, against its interests, against the very real environmental benefits of GMOs and against the health interests of little children overseas?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/safeway-starbucks-and>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.asyouow.org/health\\_safety/gmos\\_starbucks.shtml](http://www.asyouow.org/health_safety/gmos_starbucks.shtml)

<sup>3</sup> <http://gmoinside.org/starbucks/> and <http://www.greenamerica.org/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.marketwatch.com/story/gmo-inside-announces-campaign-to-get-gmos-out-of-starbucks-dairy-2014-03-04>

<sup>5</sup> <http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/guest-blog/2014/03/15/golden-rice-opponents-should-be-held-accountable-for-health-problems-linked-to-vitamin-a-deficiency/>