



# MINNESOTA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT 2014 YOUTH CONFERENCE ON STATE ISSUES

## COMMITTEE: Agriculture & Food Systems

### ***RESOLUTION***

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that genetically modified organisms, known as GMOs, are the creation of new organisms through the introduction of new genes from diverse plants and animals,  
Observing that hydroponics is the process of growing plants in sand, gravel, or liquid, with added nutrients but without soil,  
Conscious that certain GMOs no longer serve their original purpose,  
Emphasizing the impact of excessive pesticides and herbicides on GMO crops,  
Acknowledging the potential benefits of hydroponic farming,  
Deeply disturbed by the harmful effects on local systems by chemical runoff,  
Acknowledging that food deserts in the State of Minnesota exists, and they are known as areas that do not have fresh produce available,  
Taking into Account that allergens are a substance that triggers a bodily immune response,  
Realizing that the state of Minnesota has a shortage of water and farming resources,

1. Calls upon for a large reduction of the current use of GMO seeds in the State of Minnesota,
2. Directs that the amount of research done on GMOs by the State of Minnesota using publicly funded researching facilities is increased until further notice,
3. Replaces the cut down production of GMOs with a newly implemented hydroponics system,
4. Instructs that the money saved from the more sustainable agricultural methods be used to subsidize the implementation of hydroponic farming,
5. Expects that genes do not carry dangerous allergens from other organisms used in the genetic breeding process,
6. Affirms with the labeling of GMO food products in the State of Minnesota,
7. Supports a creation of an incentive program for farmers of the State of Minnesota focusing on companion crop rotation,
8. Suggests that the farmers' co-op, which sells food for human consumption, sell their food to their closest food desert areas,
9. Implements a tax on pesticides/herbicides per pound used per square acre of farmland,
10. Supports that those farmers who have had an annual surplus, and are willing to contribute to their communities, be given a permit to be a part of their regional co-op under certain criteria.