



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **US SENATE VOTES TO OVERTURN VERMONT GMO LABELING LAW CONSUMERS COULD BE LEFT IN THE DARK ABOUT GMO PRODUCTS**

Despite rhetoric supporting states' rights, the US Senate voted yesterday to revoke local laws requiring that food products containing GMOs (genetically modified organisms, or genetically engineered products) be labeled. Instead of clear, on-package labels letting consumers know whether a food contained a GMO product, the Senate will overturn states' laws requiring such labels and allow the food industry to choose one of three options:

- Use a government-sanctioned US Department of Agriculture (USDA) symbol on packaging.
- Print a label using plain language.
- Print a bar code on food packaging that shoppers can scan.

The industry is likely to choose the third option. Thus, where once there was a simple, on-package label, there will now likely be a QR code. More often than not, if this bill becomes law, in order for consumers to know what they are eating, they must first possess a smartphone, an internet connection, and adequate time to go on a goose chase.

“While New York Senators Schumer and Gillibrand heeded the will of the public and voted against cloture, this key procedural vote passed 65-32. We now look to the House and President Obama to stand up for consumers' right to stop dining in the dark,” said Ryan Carson, NYPIRG Consumer Campaign Organizer. “States have long been considered the ‘laboratories of democracy.’ If this GMO bill is passed into law, the message will be clear: when it comes to GMO labels, the laboratory is closed.”