

REFERRED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

MEASURE 17-58

CAPTION: Josephine County Genetically Engineered Plant Ordinance

QUESTION: Shall Josephine County adopt and enforce a ban on any plants whose DNA has been altered by technological means?

SUMMARY: Josephine County does not currently regulate the planting or growing of genetically modified or genetically engineered plants. This measure would prohibit the planting or growing within the County of any plant whose DNA has been altered by technology. The measure makes certain exceptions for medical research and educational institutions. The measure would authorize the County to use a Code Enforcement Officer to enforce the ban. Persons who violate the ordinance by knowingly or negligently allowing such growth could be subjected to abatement and remediation costs. The measure allows a twelve-month transition period away from genetically engineered plants for those persons who now grow them. The measure would allow confiscation and destruction of plants that have been genetically altered if contamination was occurring. Anyone who now grows genetically engineered plants would be required under this measure to notify the County Code Enforcement Officer of that fact within thirty days of the adoption of this measure. Anyone accused of growing genetically engineered plants would have fifteen days to provide evidence that the plants are not modified.