

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-075

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AND ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO WORLD HEALTH AND AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENTS

WHEREAS, the history of Solano County is rich in agriculture, with a long-standing tradition of improving the quality of its crops and livestock with selective seed development and animal husbandry; and

WHEREAS, Solano County has nurtured the development of a biotechnology corridor that is crucial to the growth of a diversified jobs base and economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS, biotechnology holds the promise for innovation that will heal the sick, feed the hungry, reduce the human footprint on the environment, and create new jobs here and throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, medical biotechnology holds the key to the discovery of cures for such life-threatening diseases as Alzheimer's, HIV/AIDS, Diabetes, Cancer and a myriad other diseases that currently have no cure; and

WHEREAS, agricultural biotechnology can make the food we eat safer, more nutritious and free from allergens, and the technology holds the key to development of crops that can be used to create new energy sources; and

WHEREAS, more than 3,400 scientists, twenty Nobel Prize winners, the American Dietetic Association, American Medical Association, the National Academy of Sciences, the European Commission, and countless others have expressed great confidence in the safety and security of biotechnology; and

WHEREAS, the use of biotechnology in agriculture has enhanced the well-being and environmental stewardship of communities through reduced pesticide use, lower water consumption and greater yield; and

WHEREAS, the use of biotechnology in medicine has led to the creation of drugs that are successfully fighting breast cancer and other diseases; and

WHEREAS, the field of biotechnology has created tens of thousands of high paying jobs for Californians at a time when other industries have been leaving the state; and

WHEREAS, the current and future developments of biotechnology in field crops represent a significant leap in addressing the hunger and nutritional needs of the world's more than 8.3 billion people by the year 2025; and

WHEREAS, the University of California and the California State University Systems are world leaders in biotechnology research, recognizing that science is the driving force

behind innovation, and that technological advancements have been at the root of California's success; and

WHEREAS, the effort toward county-by-county regulation of biotechnology suppresses investment, deters important scientific development, dismantles California's leading research and development infrastructure, undermines agricultural flexibility and farmers' ability to reduce environmental impacts, and is unnecessary given the extensive and well-coordinated federal framework for regulating biotechnology.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the County of Solano affirms that biotechnology is a bright light in the future of agriculture and medicine, offering great promise for combating disease, alleviating world hunger, reducing our dependence on pesticides and improving the health of people and the environment in which we live.

Dated this 12th day of April, 2005



Barbara R Kondylis
BARBARA R. KONDYLIS, Chairwoman
Solano County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

MICHAEL D. JOHNSON, Clerk
Solano County Board of Supervisors

By: Patty Crittenden
Patty Crittenden, Deputy Clerk