



**League of California Cities  
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Sacramento, CA 95814**

**California State Association of Counties  
1100 K Street, Suite 101  
Sacramento, CA 95814**

June 2, 2006

TO: Members, Assembly Agriculture Committee

RE: SB 1056 (Florez). California Seed Law. Local Preemption.

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), and the League of California Cities (League) continue to oppose SB 1056 (Florez).

Specifically, the bill would prohibit cities and counties from adopting ordinances or regulations that may prohibit or in any way attempt to regulate the registration, labeling, sale, storage, transportation distribution, notification of use, and use of seeds. The measure would provide that the provisions of the California Seed Law are of Statewide concern and occupy the whole field of seed regulation.

While it is our understanding that the sponsors and author of the bill intend to address local regulation of genetically modified food or seeds, as drafted, the preemption provisions go well beyond local preemption of GMO. We believe they are so sweeping that they would restrict the ability of cities and counties to engage in basic local government regulation, such as zoning (i.e., prohibiting a seed storage facility from being located in a residential facility), environmental and public safety protection (i.e., prohibiting local fire code inspections or hazardous materials storage restrictions of feed storage facilities), or transportation (i.e., restricting seed truck parking in residential areas or seed delivery truck hours in center city streets)

Our organizations are supportive of innovations and technical advancements that assist in keeping the agricultural industry a viable and important economic force in the State. However CSAC and the League strongly oppose this statewide sweeping preemption of local control over seed regulation and seed use. We believe that the decision to adopt an ordinance or regulation regarding all aspects of seed storage, use, transportation, etc. should be left to the discretion of the individual cities and counties given their knowledge and familiarity with the needs and desires of their local residents.

It is for this reason the CSAC and the League oppose SB 1056

cc: Senator Dean Florez  
Consultant, Assembly Agriculture Committee  
Sue Blake, Governor's Office of Planning and Research  
Assembly Republican Caucus