

The La Montanita Coop Organic Chile Roast 2018 will be held tomorrow, Saturday, September 29.

For many years La Montanita sold organic chile from a local organic farmer, Albert Bustamante. Then it disappeared from the Coop without any explanation.

In 2008, the community became aware that NM State University was developing a genetically engineered chile for members of the NM Chile Association. As a result, several concerned Coop members attended Coop meetings requesting that La Montanita no longer carry products from NM Chile Association companies.

A GE chile is not environmentally responsible nor is it organic.

The board ignored the Coop members' requests. For the next several years, more members continued to attend meetings and voice their concerns, with still no action from the board. Instead, the Coop responded by carrying even more products from NMCA members. First, more salsas and other products, then Seco Spice green chile and Franzoy chile ristras. Both are members of the NM Chile Association, and Franzoy even testified at the state legislature in support of the New Mexico Chile Advertising Act.

The NM Chile Association wants to control every single chile plant grown in New Mexico. And this year, it also was part of an effort to control *every single seed* planted by anyone in New Mexico.

Are these the companies whose products Coop members should be supporting?

Every dollar we spend on NMCA products is a dollar that could instead be spent on products from New Mexico's real, ethical, local organic and pesticide-free farmers.

So, go to the event and have a beer, purchase locally made goods, but don't purchase the chile. Tell Seco Spice why you are not supporting them. Tell the Coop Board Members again too, while you're at it. Who knows, maybe Seco Spice will rethink their position, come out against the GE chile, and drop their NM Chile Association membership publicly.