

For immediate release

## MONTVILLE BAN ON GENETIC ENGINEERING COULD HURT STATE'S ECONOMY

STONINGTON, April 7 – A ban on genetically modified organisms (GMOs), recently enacted by the Town of Montville, could hurt the state's efforts to attract biotechnology companies and investment, warns the Maine Biotechnology Information Bureau.

"Whether they intended to or not, the Town of Montville banned all biotechnology activity, including research and development, in their town," said Douglas Johnson, Ph.D., executive director of the bureau. "If The Jackson Laboratory were located in Montville, they would have to shut down."

At town meeting on March 29, Montville voters passed an [ordinance](#) entitled "Town of Montville Genetically Modified Organisms Ordinance." The ordinance makes it "unlawful for a person, partnership, firm, or organization of any kind to produce genetically modified organisms in the Town of Montville for a period of ten (10) years."

"Maine is investing millions in research and development in order to attract private investment to the state in an effort to grow the state's economy," Johnson said. "The Montville ban says biotechnology is not welcome here. Who would invest in Maine knowing that any town in the state could suddenly make their business illegal?"

In an article posted on the Maine Biotechnology Information Bureau blog (<http://bioblog.mainebioinfo.org>), Johnson challenges state officials and scientists to speak out against Montville's attack on biotechnology. "If state officials and scientists remain silent, the residents of Montville will get their wish as the state slips quietly back into the 19th century," the article concludes.

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- Doug Johnson

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