



Altria

October 8, 2025

Henry Stern
State Capital
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: Oppose, SB-37, Henry Stern

Dear Senator Henry Stern,

Altria Group writes to you regarding not supporting SB-37 Ban on Seeds. SB-37 permanently bans the sale and distribution of seeds treated with certain pesticides that can harm humans, animals, or the environment. The bill requires the EPA to work with farmers to ensure these harmful seeds are not used. It also provides \$5 million in funding for nonprofit and grassroots organizations to monitor compliance and prevent illegal distribution. The law makes it illegal to sell these seeds even with labels, aiming to protect ecosystems, soil, bees, and wildlife.

Having a permanent ban on pesticide coded seeds will disrupt the tobacco supply chain and create significant challenges for our leaf suppliers. Tobacco is grown from carefully selected seeds that are treated with pesticides to ensure healthy germination and protect the crop from pests and disease. Our tobacco farmers rely on these seeds to produce high-quality leaves in a predictable and sustainable manner. This ban will increase costs, reduce crop yields, and directly impact the sustainability of Altria's tobacco operations, affecting both farmers and the communities that depend on them.

For this reason Altria Group respectfully does not support SB-37.

Sincerely,

Altria Group
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