

6/1/00

Commissioner Jane Henney
Docket No. 00P-1211/CP1
FDA Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

9900 '00 JUN -6 P2:34

Dear Commissioner Henney:

I am writing to ask that the Food and Drug Administration address my concerns about genetically engineered (GE) foods.

I am asking that:

- All GE foods be labeled to give the consumer an opportunity for an informed choice.
- That a moratorium on all new GE foods be initiated since there are no requirements for long-term studies exploring their impact on human health or the environment.
- For mandatory pre-market safety testing on all GE foods.

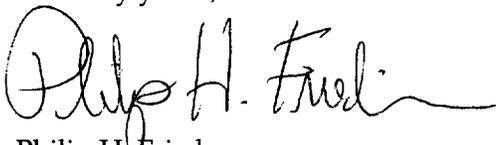
I am concerned that GE foods will affect both the public health and the environment. In support of my concern I present the following:

- Emerging studies show GE foods could create new toxins, antibiotic resistance, allergic reactions, and other dietary risks for consumers, and therefore should not be considered "generally recognized as safe" (GRAS).
- Individuals with ethical or religious dietary concerns may unwittingly consume foods that contain genes from other species.
- GE foods have been shown to be a threat to the environment and that the problem they purport to overcome (i.e., the reduction in the use of pesticides) might be accomplished in other ways, such as switching to organic—as opposed to petroleum/chemical-based agriculture.
- GE agriculture puts organic foods at risk—organic crops can be contaminated by genetic drift.

Again, I ask that GE foods be labeled; that a moratorium on all new GE foods be initiated; and that there be pre-market safety testing on all GE foods.

Thank you for soliciting comments from the food consuming public about this important issue.

Sincerely yours,



Philip H. Friedman
201 S. Grant Ave.
Fort Collins, CO 80521
970 493-2959

cc: President Bill Clinton
Vice President Al Gore
Senators Wayne Allard and Ben Nighthorse Campbell
Representative Bob Schaffer

00P-1211

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Philip Friedman
201 S. Grant Ave.
Fort Collins, CO 80521-2534



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