

Butler, Jennie C

From: mor1@concentric.net
Sent: Monday, August 07, 2000 1:53 AM
To: fdadockets@oc.fda.gov
Subject: FDA should Require Labeling and Testing of GE Foods

Mary Romano
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Denver, CO 80220

RE: Docket No. 00P-1211/CP1 AND RE: Docket No. 99N-4282

Dear Commissioner Henney,

I write to ask that you PLEASE require the labeling and pre-market safety testing of genetically engineered foods.

In 1992, the FDA received thousands of comments from the public demanding mandatory labeling of genetically engineered foods, yet the agency refused to act. Additionally, when the USDA considered including genetically engineered foods in their "organic standards" -- more than 400,000 Americans said "NO." More recently, a Time Magazine poll showed that 81% of American consumers believe genetically engineered foods should be labeled. We have an absolute right to KNOW what is in the food that we are purchasing, as well as how it was produced.

I am deeply concerned that the government does not require mandatory pre-market safety testing of genetically engineered foods. Without such requirements, we will have no way to know if new toxins or allergens are being introduced, or if levels of existing toxins in these foods are increased. Additionally, the effect of using of antibiotic resistant genes in the genetic engineering process remains unclear, and may pose a health risk by transferring such resistance to consumers.

Please take action to ensure that I have the ability to make an educated and safe choice about the foods that I eat. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mary Romano

00P-1211

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