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Commissioner: Jane Henney, FDA
Dockets Management Branch 5630
Fishers Lane Room 1061 (HFA-305)
Rockville MD 20852 RE. Docket No.
oop-1211/ CPI and RE. Docket No.
99N-4282

Dear Jane Henney,

October 10, 2000

I am writing in support of the legal petition submitted to the Food and Drug Administration requesting the establishment of premarket safety testing regulations for genetically engineered foods. I believe the F.D.A.'s current voluntary and informal guidelines are inadequate given the absence of mandatory labeling laws regarding genetically engineered organisms.

The absence of mandatory labeling laws regarding genetically modified organisms in general and genetically engineered foods in particular is unacceptable in my view.

As pointed out by Mark Ritchie, President of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy: "Under the current Food and Drug Administration's " non-labeling " policy, those (people) suffering from food allergies have no way of knowing they are consuming G.E. Foods or how to avoid this potential new source of food allergy". As has been suggested by a prominent member of The Council for Responsible Genetics; " With each gene insertion there is the possibility that a non toxic element in the food could become toxic and create a human health hazard". These points highlight the importance of providing a market atmosphere more conducive to food production methods already tested over time. Such an atmosphere seems unlikely with out the establishment of mechanisms by which the consumer can expect to be warned each time they are choosing a G.E. product, and most specifically food products.

Please, offer the consumer one safeguard in the current environment where G.E. Foods exist. Empower the consumer with the knowledge he/she requires in order to make informed choices as to food purchases. Require that all G.E. foods (and / or the presence of genetically modified organisms in food products) to be so labeled with particular emphasis on those included in products while also not having passed pre-market safety tests. The presence of such substances should be so identified with a clear warning to the consumer as to their possible risks.

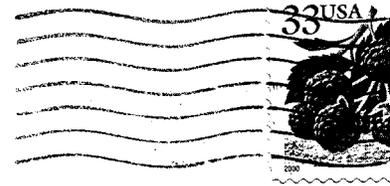
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Sincerely,

Robert H. Henne

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