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R.R. 1, Box 2469-A
Kingfield, ME 04947
September 2, 2000

Commissioner Jane Henney
7DA Dockets Management Branch (HFA - 305)
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1060
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket No. 00P-1211/CPI

Dear Dr. Henney,

I am a retired university professor (Ph.D. in brain research, 1965) with perhaps 20 years left to live. However, the matter before us transcends my and your lifetime: it transcends partisan politics, transcends corporate interests, particularly profit, and transcends international boundaries.

I am old enough to recall the fanfare that accompanied the use of DDT. I read Rachel Carson's book (a courageous and observant woman worthy of emulation), denigrated by nearly all biologists of the day. Events have vindicated her, indeed far exceeded her most dire observations.

The corporate desire for profit and control has already opened a doorway through which humanity ought not to pass. Modifying plants so they can withstand still greater pesticide distribution is, on the face of it, a monumental stupidity: the earth needs fewer, not more pesticides. After all, they poison all living creatures, not just bugs. Our lack of foresight in the use of unwholesome products and technologies has been amply demonstrated. Does anyone know that genetic modification is benign and without unforeseen, disastrous effects? No.

The biosphere and the life force that is integrated into it and manifested by it, transcends the corporate wish for exorbitant profits. Short-sighted, "scientific" technology ought not, literally, alter what has taken eons to develop.

Genetic modification intrinsically, is dangerous. It is merely right then, the absolute minimum, that moral government require:

- 1.) experimental evidence that no harmful effects to humans or the environment emerge from it;
- 2.) corporations that manufacture these products be responsible for any and all damage they cause*;
- 3.) disclosure for products already on the market (corn, etc.) so consumers can select (polls show a large majority does not want them).

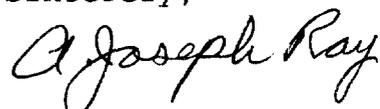
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The government needs to inject some prudence and circumspection into its "regulatory" activities. In that respect, and as a first step, Docket #00P-1211/CPI needs to be supported. Indeed, laws with an eye to the future generations of Americans (who already are neither the healthiest nor longest-lived citizens of the industrialized nations) appear necessary.

It is easy to "go along" with the flow of things. It takes foresight and courage to do otherwise. This is not obstinacy. In this instance it is prudence, respect for life and concern for the earth, whose resources we have already stressed to their limits.

Sincerely,

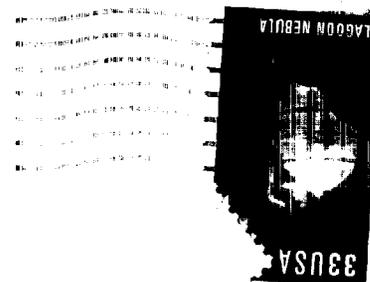
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. Joseph Ray".

A. Joseph Ray, Ph.D.

*This technology is far more dangerous than manufacturing tires and its inevitable negative effects, which may take 20 yrs. to become apparent, will far exceed 88 deaths.



Dr. Joseph A. Ray
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