

June 6, 2000

Commissioner Jane Henney  
FDA Dockets Management Branch  
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm 1061 (HFA-305)  
Rockville, MD 20852  
RE: Docket No. 00p-1211/CP1 & No. 99N-4282

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Dear Ms. Henney,

I'm taking the time to compose this letter because I'm very alarmed at the flood of genetically modified organisms into my diet and into my environment. I think that not enough testing has been done to determine if negative effects are forthcoming. The environmental effects are particularly frightening because once this genetic material becomes self-replicating in the environment there is no holding back the damage that might occur. Genetically engineered fish, for example, once released (or escaped) into the environment may destroy the resilient characteristics of wild salmon and neutralize the hard work that conservationists have devoted to bringing back the salmon.

I think we need to rescind the 1992 policy on genetically engineered foods and implement new regulation that comply with the legal requirements of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. Because of the potential for introducing new allergens all GE foods must be subject to pre-market safety assessment procedures. Some of the genetically modified plants are designed to carry toxins into every part of the plant to ward off insect damage. I do not want to eat these toxins and I think the FDA is not doing enough to keep these new compounds out of our foods. New procedures to assess unintended effects of GE foods need to be developed and implemented to keep up with the new technology.

Environmental impacts to the ocean, the forests and the landscape must be considered before releasing Gene Spliced organisms from controlled laboratory settings into the environment. These new organisms must be subject to strict environmental impact analysis.

Finally, the restrictions on the consumers' right to know what they are consuming need to be eliminated. I want to know if the corn chips I'm eating are made with GE corn that contains rbBT toxins, if the milk I'm drinking contains rbBGH and if the soybeans that go into my tofu are "roundup-ready". The FDA is funded to protect the consumer, not the corporations. I want to make informed choices when I purchase foods. All genetically engineered foods must be clearly labeled when they are presented to the market.



Jim Brobeck  
1605 Manzanita Ave.  
Chico, California 95926

localworld@hotmail.com

00P-1211

e1090

BROBECK  
1605 Manzanita  
Chico CA  
95926



Commissioner Jane Henney  
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852 H.F.A.  
Jas

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