

June 7, 2000

Jane Henney, Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane Room 1061 (HFA-305)
Rockville, MD 20852

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

Dear Jane Henney, Commissioner:

I write to ask that you 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. 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.

Please inform me by mail regarding your stance on this issue and the action you plan to take.

Sincerely,

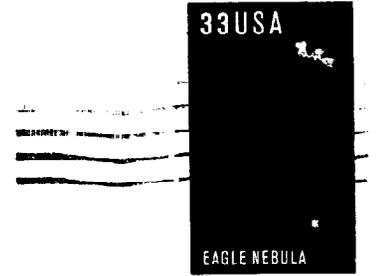


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00P-1211

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