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Jane Henney  
FDA Commissioner  
FDA  
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Mrs. Henney

I am writing to you as a student who is concerned about the current situation involving genetically engineered (GE) food in Sri Lanka. I became aware of the matter in my Environmental Science class at school. After discussing the issue with my class and doing extensive research I urge the FDA to make it impossible for companies to export their food products without any GE regulations.

All over the globe countries are discussing the role of GE foods in our lives. Sri Lanka has now banned all GE foods from being imported into the country. The reason why Sri Lanka did this is because people like Dr. A.M. Beligaswatte, the director-general of Sri Lanka's health services are unsure of what the exact long terms of GE foods are. The majority of GE imported food in Sri Lanka comes from the United States. Now, all imports must have a letter or must guarantee that the food is not GE. During the past month, over 50 consumer, environmental, scientific, farm, and health groups, which included the FDA issued a petition demanding "pre-market safety testing for GE foods." The coalition feels strongly that there should be some kind of government regulation regarding the issue. I think that there should be as well. If countries are not sure of the health-related effects of GE foods, there should be government intervention.

A FDA spokesman said that the FDA would look at the petition and "carefully consider" it. I not only encourage the FDA to consider the petition I urge them to act upon it. If U.S. businesses have no regulations regarding health-related issues, something must be done. There should be FDA studies about whether GE food is unhealthy. Until the FDA does know for sure the GE food is safe, companies must make it known to the public that their product is GE.

Some people may not agree with me however; people like the owners of GE food companies. For them, they see other countries as people who need food, hence a source of money. Whose right is it to tell us we cannot sell our product to other countries? Why should we have to print GE on our label? These kinds of arguments are restricted to the companies of GE food and them only. If people are unsure about the effects of GE food, people should be able to choose whether they eat that product or not. If GE is not printed on the label, then how can they know if it is GE or not? The answer is they can not. These companies are taking away other peoples rights by not giving them the right to choose whether they want to eat GE food or not.

I think that the FDA has a responsibility, as an organization designed to help people, to act on this petition. If not, then the power of corporations becomes stronger. I thank you for your time reading this letter and I hope to hear from you in the near future about what you plan on doing regarding this issue.

Sincerely



Jake Greenblum

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