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Bob Howe & Cynthia Thomas, Owners

April 25, 2000

Commissioner Jane Henney
Docket No. 00P-1211/CP1
FDA Dockets Management Branch
HFA-305
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

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Dear Commissioner Henney

On March 21, 2000, the Center for Food Safety and Pine Creek Organics spearheaded an unprecedented coalition of over 50 scientific, consumer, environmental and farm organizations in the filing of a legal petition with the FDA demanding the development of a thorough pre-market and environmental testing regime for genetically engineered foods and mandatory labeling of such foods. The effort has created an official rulemaking docket that allows the public to write in and support the action. Now it is important to let the government know what you think by submitting your comments today! Additionally, when you send the letter below, it will be cc'd to your Senators and Representative - an action which is crucial given the pending mandatory labeling legislation.

Currently, at least 46 different genetically engineered foods are being sold without labeling or being subject to mandatory pre-market safety testing. These genetically engineered foods are reported to be present in a number of mass consumed food products from major soy-based baby formulas to some of the most popular corn chip brands.

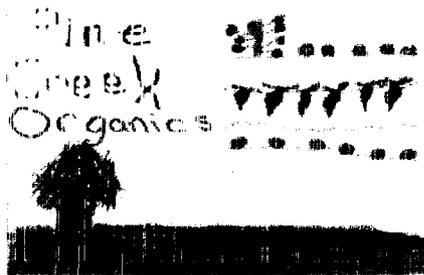
Because of the FDA's failure to require labeling, millions of American infants, children and adults are consuming genetically engineered products each day without their knowledge. Individuals with ethical or religious dietary principles are unwittingly consuming foods which contain genes from other species. And those with food allergies have no way of knowing whether they are consuming novel foods with potentially new allergens.

The government's current failure to require the pre-market safety testing of genetically engineered foods raises serious concerns about the health impacts of these novel foods. Even the FDA's own scientists have stated that "undesirable effects such as increased levels of known naturally occurring toxicants, appearance of new, not previously identified toxicants, increased capability of concentrating toxic substances from the environment (e.g., pesticides or heavy metals), and undesirable alterations in the levels of nutrients may escape [plant] breeders attention unless genetically engineered plants are evaluated specifically for these changes." Yet, the agency requires no mandatory safety testing before a genetically engineered food comes to market!

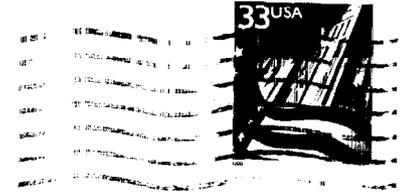

Robert L. Howe, Co-owner
Pine Creek Organics

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