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May 8, 2000

FDA Commissioner Jane Henney
5630 Fischer Lane
Room 1061 (HFA-305)
Rockville, MD 20852

re: Docket number OOP-1211/CPI and
Docket number 99N 4282

Dear Commissioner Henney,

..We, the consumers of organic produce demand a say in the definition and the laws regarding the future of organic agriculture. We are outraged that our governmental organizations for whom we pay taxes, to protect us, are sneaking through loopholes that affect our very lives.

For the sake of our health, our lives and those of our children and all other children we demand that the FDA insist on stronger organic foods standards for the following reasons:

...**Irradiation** is not cold pasteurization. Irradiation presents unacceptable risks. It should certainly not be used in the production of organic foods. It creates free radicals. For another thing, in the meat industry, irradiation would be unnecessary if laws for proper hygienic methods and handling were instituted.

..**Genetic Engineering** of foods should be outlawed altogether until proper long-term testing has been done. All foods must be so labeled (or labeled GE free), so the consumer can have a choice.

Genetically engineered Bovine Growth Hormone must be taken off the market. There are now new questions about human health consequences of this drug.

Methyl Bromide as fumigant for pest control should be outlawed altogether and certainly not allowed in the growing or processing of organic foods.

..**Sludge** should not be used in agriculture since it can contain residues of heavy metals, dioxin, PCBs and furans as well as pesticides. These pesticides are hormone disrupters and potential carcinogens.

In view of the fact that 1 in 3 people in this country can already count on developing cancer, how much further do we have to deteriorate as a nation before you take action on citizens' behalf. As it is we fear it may already be too late for most of us because of our degraded environment.

We sincerely hope that you will give these pleas serious consideration.

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OOP-1211

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