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February 13, 2001

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket No. 00D-1598

Dear FDA,

On behalf of the Bastrop Chamber of Commerce, we would like to endorse labeling and regulation of genetically altered foods. Bastrop consumers are very aware of the controversies surrounding genetically engineered foods. They are especially concerned about the inadequate regulation that has been provided by federal regulatory agencies since their introduction several years ago.

The recently proposed FDA Rules do little to address their concerns of mandatory labeling; independent, long-term safety testing; product liability safeguards and stricter oversight of these foods from the farm to the table.

The Bastrop Chamber of Commerce would like to encourage the FDA to consider the concerns of our citizens. They have the right to know if the foods they are choosing have been genetically altered so they can make informed decisions. It is not in the consumers' best interests to withhold this information.

Adequate labeling is essential in protecting the consumer's right to know in these matters. Therefore, we urge the FDA to adopt a policy of mandatory labeling of genetically engineered foods.

Sincerely,

Laura Terhune
President

CC: Candace Boheme

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