

GLOBAL RESOURCE ACTION CENTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

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January 25, 2001

Helaine Lerner  
Board Chair

Alice Slater  
President

Commissioner Jane Henney  
Dockets Management Branch (HFA 305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fisher's Lane, Rm 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

Project Directors

David Brubaker  
William J. Weida

RE: Docket No. 00D-1598

Dear Ms. Henney:

Advisory Committee

- Oscar Arias
- Barbara Bergman
- Selma Brackman
- Kim Brizzolara
- Jacqueline Cabasso
- Helen Caldicott
- Manas Chatterji
- Mark Dowie
- Lloyd Dumas
- Gary Ferdman
- Shirley Fingerhood
- Hamilton Fish
- Karl Grossman
- Hazel Henderson
- Walter Isard
- Michio Kaku
- Inge Kaul
- Patti Kenner
- David Korten
- David Krieger
- Gloria Lawrence
- Robert S. Lawrence
- Sidney Lerner
- Leonard Marks
- Ann Markusen
- Myron Mehlman
- Myriam Miedzian
- James Parks Morton
- Monroe Price
- Mark Ritchie
- Douglas Roche
- Stanley Sheinbaum
- Henry Spira (1927-1998)
- Emily Squires
- Theodore B. Taylor
- Grace Thorpe
- Stanley Weithorn
- Alan Woltz

On behalf of The Global Resource Action Center for the Environment (GRACE), I am writing to urge you to enact mandatory labeling for all genetically engineered (GE) foods. The public health is threatened by making safety testing and labeling of GE foods voluntary.

Thousands of people have expressed concern over the introduction of GE foods into the market, and your agency has refused to take these concerns seriously. The new policy ignores sound scientific evidence of the damaging environmental and human health risks from GE foods.

These foods could be toxic, cause allergic reactions, and cause irreparable damage to the environment. The FDA must consider what will happen to human health if these foods comprise a significant portion of our diets. The term "substantially equivalent" is vague and fails to include potential toxic reactions and decreased vitamin content in GE foods, in comparison to wholesome, and natural foods.

I am opposed to the voluntary labeling policy which denies consumers a chance to make informed choices about what they eat. The FDA is obligated not to endanger environmental and public health for the benefit of corporate quest for profit.

Please retract the voluntary labeling policy and enact mandatory labeling for all GE foods.

Sincerely,

Alice Slater  
President

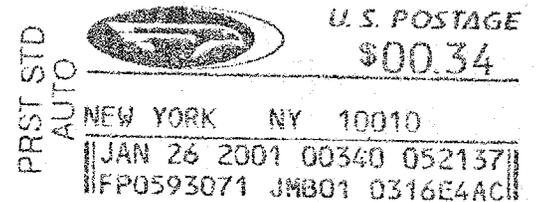
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GRACE

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15 East 26th Street, New York, N.Y. 10010



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