1-30-01

Re: Docket #OON-1396 + Docket #OOD-1598
On the issue of labeling for genetically engineered foods.

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Dear Commissioner:

As a private citizen in a country where personal rights have always been of major concern, I am appalled that our government would, even for a moment, think that it is okay to market any food that is altered in this way without labeling that would allow each individual the right to make his or her own personal choice. Apart from the obvious issues of safety, toxicity, cross-pollination problems, testing + the like, this, to me, is primarily an issue of each persons right to decide, for himself, based on correct + complete information, what he chooses to put in his body, or plant in his field, or sell in his store. I am asking that you do everything in your power, + the power of your office, to protect + uphold this right.

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I am asking for clear + consistant labeling clearly stating if a product either contains or was developed using genetically altered food products. This labeling should include, along with a easily recognized symbol + statement, a phone number and/or web site where concise and complete information on the product might be obtained. I would also ask you to press for stringent guidelines on the testing of genetically altered food products well in advance of any possible release into the marketplace, with or without labeling. If we can withhold the entry into the marketplace of, possibly, disease conquering drugs until they are proven, sufficiently, to be "safe", then we have an even greater responsibility to do this with our nations food supply, which is consumed by virtually everyone.

Thank you -

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