

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

0940 '01 FEB -9 10:20

February 5, 2001

RE: Docket Numbers 00N-1396 and 00D-1598

Dear Commissioner,

The new FDA rule on genetically engineered (GE) foods does not offer enough protection. I strongly urge the FDA to :

1. Require mandatory pre-market safety testing. GE foods could be toxic, cause allergic responses, have lower nutritional value, and compromise immune responses in consumers;
2. Require mandatory pre-market environmental review. GE crops and goods could cause unforeseen and irreparable damage to the environment;
3. Require mandatory labeling of GE foods. Without mandatory labeling, neither consumers nor health professionals will know if an allergic or toxic reaction was the result of a GE food. Consumers will also be deprived of the critical knowledge they need to hold food producers liable should any of these novel foods prove hazardous;

FDA's "Notification" policy is not in the best interest of consumers since it ignores strong scientific evidence of numerous potential health and environmental risks of GE foods. A more proactive rule is needed to protect public health and the environment and provide more consumer information.

Sincerely,



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