

March 20, 2000

RE: Dockets 00N-1396 and 00D-1598

5801 '01 MAR 28 P2:47

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

It is the job of the FDA to protect the public's health, not the economic interests of biotech companies. You have the awesome responsibility of making decisions that will affect the health and well being of all of humanity. Once you put all kinds of genetically modified crops and other organisms into this earth.....you can't just say oops and take it all back when things go wrong, and there is plenty of evidence that things will go wrong. If you do not require mandatory safety testing and labeling for GMO products it will be against COMMON SENSE and THE WILL OF THE MAJORITY.

The cost of the Star Link corn fiasco should give a big hint at some of the problems that will happen. People in other countries will not want our food. Our farmers will suffer. My biggest concern is the health of all life on this planet. I just heard about all kinds of salmon from farms escaping into the ocean. I have read that if GMO salmon were to escape it would decimate the wild salmon population, and who knows what other problems it would cause in the food chain. Things in nature work in complicated ways and sometimes we fail to see the web that links things together.

And what about the potential for health problems or even deaths from inserting proteins and genetic materials into new plants. People die from food allergies, this is not something to take lightly.

It is the biotech firms that have the burden of showing that their products are safe. The people doing things the right and natural way shouldn't bear a big burden for testing their products and labeling them so we will know we are buying uncontaminated, normal, more natural products. Make the biotech firms prove the safety and then REQUIRE LABELING on GMOs. Let us choose what to put in our bodies.

Look to England and the mad cow catastrophe. Farmer's CAUSED this by unnatural practices, feeding vegetarian cows ground up dead cows and turning them into cannibals.

Now is the time for common sense. Let's not bring untold disaster and suffering on this planet because some politicians have received generous donations from biotech firms. I have never yet met one fellow American that approves of GMO foods -- never! I've read some editorials in the paper, but my friends, family, and social contacts, once they understand what GMOs are, are all against biotech firms playing God.

Sincerely,

Joy De Young
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