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Traditional
Acupuncture

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February 7, 2001

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

**Re: Docket # 00D-1598 and 00N-1396
regarding genetically engineered foods**

Dear Commissioner:

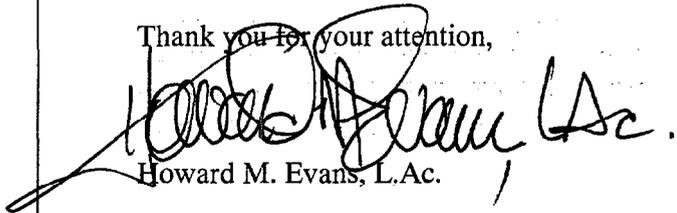
I am writing to urge you to require basic safety testing and mandatory labeling of genetically engineered foods. As a health care professional, I am concerned that your proposed policies will not adequately protect or inform the public. Consumers have the right to know and trust what is in our food.

There is ample evidence already submitted to the FDA revealing that GE foods are *not* "substantially equivalent" to non-GE foods and that there are numerous health and environmental risks. The American public is eating new experimental foods with potentially lethal proteins in them and your agency has, so far, been unable to warn or protect it.

The FDA's voluntary labeling guidelines (Docket 00D-1598) are unacceptable since industry will not choose to label unless required to do so. Labeling gives consumers a choice and allows researchers to know when GE foods may be implicated in some catastrophe. Similarly, Docket 00N-1396 is woefully inadequate because it does not require even the elementary testing accorded to simple food additives. Safety testing would be obvious were it not for the intense industry pressure you are under to make guinea pigs of us all.

Many groups are calling for mandatory labeling, including the EU/US Biotechnology Consultative Forum and the Consumer Federation of America. Please heed these many voices, large and small. Stop working solely for the GE manufacturers and protect the American citizenry, your real and most important constituency. GE foods must be tested and labeled.

Thank you for your attention,


Howard M. Evans, L.Ac.

00N-1396

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