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

Docket #00D-1598

February 12, 2001

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a nutrition student at Arizona State University, and I wish to comment on the proposed labeling guidance for food developed through biotechnology.

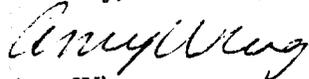
I agree with the FDA's current stance of not requiring mandatory labeling of bioengineered foods. Because no adverse health effects are currently associated with consuming bioengineered foods versus conventionally produced foods, the information is not material as defined by section 201(n) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. My opinion is that mandatory labeling might unnecessarily encourage in the public an alarmist attitude regarding these foods.

Bearing that thought in mind, I do support voluntary labeling by **manufacturers** to indicate the presence or absence of bioengineered food products. It is my feeling that the guidelines presented by the FDA would be of most use to consumers who desire to avoid these food products, although it may also be true that some consumers will choose specifically to buy bioengineered products in support of these technologies. It is important to avoid phrases in labeling that might create mistaken assumptions on the part of the consumer, e.g., that bioengineered foods are less safe or of lower quality than traditionally produced foods. I am gratified to note that the FDA guidelines address this issue.

In summary, I feel strongly that consumers who are concerned about the presence of bioengineered food products in their diets should have the opportunity to influence manufacturers to provide food products that they deem personally **acceptable**. Guidelines concerning the labeling of these products will allow consumers to exercise this **influence** without unduly **alarming** those consumers who are not particularly concerned with the issue.

Thanks for your attention. **Should** you desire further input from me, please contact me at (602) 405-6679.

Sincerely,



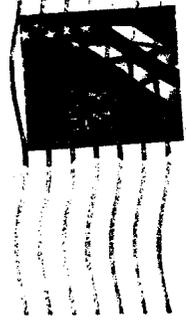
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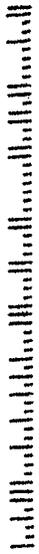
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