

February 9, 2001

To FDA Commissioner:

4 4 9 0 '01 FEB 15 P3 :19

FDA must require mandatory pre-market safety testing: GE foods could be toxic, could **cause** allergic responses, could have lower nutritional value, and could compromise immune responses in consumers;

FDA must require mandatory pre-market environmental review: GE crops and foods could **cause** irreparable damage to the environment and **biodiversity**;

FDA must 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 **genetically** engineered 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.

This "Notification" policy is an insult to consumers, and irresponsibly ignores strong scientific evidence of numerous potential health and environmental risks of GE foods. These Rules appear to be a decision made to convenience industry at the expense **of public** health, consumer information, and the environment.

Sincerely,



Jacqueline Jones
UMASS Graduate Student
Department of Nutrition

00D-1598

C534