

February 20, 2001

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FDA Commissioner
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville MD 20852

RE: Docket 00N-1396/00D-1598

To the Commissioner and FDA Staff,

We would like to express our extreme displeasure on the proposed rules regarding genetically engineered foods. To be direct, it is spineless.

As consumers we are entitled to knowing what exactly is being fed to us. There is no reason not to list all G.E. foods on labels. We are an intelligent nation, list them and let us decide what we eat. And as a parent I should be able to decide what we are feeding our son.

And what is the hurry to rush foods to market without testing? I read the Wall Street Journal and no one is even claiming that businesses will go under unless G.E. foods fill up grocery stores. Without some "it's the end of the world" argument at hand I'd say the safest guidelines would be the one for the FDA to adapt. Generally we would be the last ones to lecture someone about their job responsibility, but do you want to live with the guilt of harming the health of millions of children? If the answer is no, then slow it down and let's do a few years of testing. We've survived this long without it.

You know I'd love to say put the brakes on the whole process but that isn't likely to happen. But what I can say is that most Americans want these simple protections. Give them to us.

And now is the time for you to build your power of authority for future problems in this area. If you wait to long you'll have nothing of real power to work with. Last time I checked the FDA still lacked authority to order a food recall.

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And thank you for taking the time and having the courtesy to read through our comments. As you can probably tell this is a priority issue for us.

Sincerely,

Bob Brody

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