



GIANT FOOD INC.

ODONNA MATHEWS
VICE PRESIDENT
CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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February 14, 2001

Ms. Amy Buringrud
PO Box 65
Otis, OR 97368-0065

Dear Ms. Buringrud:

Thank you for taking the time to contact Giant's President with your concern about genetically modified foods. He asked that I reply on his behalf.

Giant supports the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) labeling policy that appropriate labels should be required if genetic engineering significantly changes the structure, functions or nutritional makeup of the food. Giant also encourages the FDA to maintain an active science-based monitoring program to ensure that only safe and wholesome products reach the market.

We believe it is the role of the federal government to establish and enforce standards that ensure the safety of our nation's food supply. All food products that cannot be considered safe by the appropriate government agency should be prevented from reaching the marketplace, and if any are found unsafe after marketing, they should be recalled.

A wide range of foods contain genetically modified ingredients because nearly half the soy and much of the corn grown in the United States are genetically modified. Additionally, lifesaving products, such as human insulin used by thousands of people with diabetes, are made by bacteria that are genetically modified to make the insulin. Despite the current debate in Europe and the recent situation with Starlink corn, overall the United States' experience with these products has been good. The Food and Drug Administration has been monitoring the process to make sure allergens or other potential safety problems are not transferred in the genetic modification.

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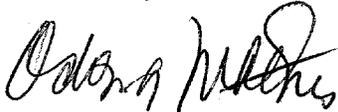
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If you still wish to avoid such foods, the only possible alternative is certified organic foods. The federal regulations being developed for organic foods, we anticipate, will not include the use of genetically modified foods or ingredients. It is our understanding that the organic foods industry supports this position, so even now you probably can rely on an organically certified food having little or no genetically modified ingredients.

In the meantime, we urge the biotech industry and food manufacturers to focus more on developing genetically modified products with clear advantages for consumers in terms of price, quality and sustainability than on commodities with no clear consumer added value.

Thanks, again, for contacting us. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Odonna Mathews". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Odonna Mathews
Vice President, Consumer Affairs

cc: Richard Baird, President and CEO

Ref: 33659

Mr. Bunnard
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