

FDA Commissioner  
Dockets Management Branch (HFS-305) '01 MAR 14 P3:19  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fisher's Lane, rm. 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket No. 00D-1598

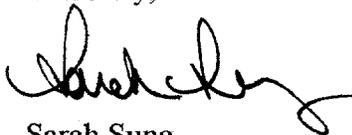
The draft guidance on labeling is unacceptable. The FDA's continued insistence to deny mandatory labeling of genetically modified foods is contrary to what the Agency has consistently heard from the majority of consumers.

Mandatory labeling was the primary message heard from the FDA public hearings on genetic engineering in 1999, as well as in the FDA's own consumer focus groups in May 2000. The recently released final report of the joint EU-U.S. Biotechnology Consultative Forum also emphasized the importance of mandatory labeling of genetically modified food products as an important tool in providing consumers with relevant information. The people have spoken. Consumers want to be knowledgeable in their food choices and to have the right to know what they are purchasing and consuming. Let the people make the decision whether bioengineered products are right for them with mandatory labeling of genetically modified foods.

Additionally, the FDA's decision to encourage voluntary labeling instead of mandatory labeling unfairly puts the burden on manufacturers who choose not to use bioengineered ingredients instead of on those who are introducing this new technology into our food supply.

I am expecting the FDA to listen to the will of the people. Mandate mandatory labeling of foods that contain genetically modified ingredients. Consumers should have the right of informed choice regarding the selection of what they want to consume.

Sincerely,



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The Humane Society of the United States



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