

9 March 2001

Food & Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket #OON-1396 and #OOD-1598

To Whom It May Concern:

I am appalled at your recent proposed rulings about genetically modified organisms in our food supply. I urge you to reconsider and to adopt rules that work towards the health of our population rather than rules that favor multinational corporations and agribusiness, as these certainly do. I, with the majority of the population, want food to be labeled if it is genetically modified or contains genetically modified ingredients!

I want to know what I am buying. I want to know what is in my food. And I want to be able to choose whether to purchase food with GMO ingredients or not.

The FDA is supposed to safeguard the public's health. These rules lack requirements for long-term testing, ignore reports by your own scientists, and they fail to take into account any possible side effects. Worse yet, these rules make it harder for conscientious manufacturer's and growers to label food that is GMO-free.

Genetically engineered foods are required to be labeled in Great Britain, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Ireland, Spain, Austria, Italy, Portugal, Greece, New Zealand and Japan. U.S. food manufacturers and growers label GMO-foods in these countries or promise they are GMO-free. The same can be done in America--please make it a requirement in your rules!

People in the above-mentioned countries are already better informed than Americans are! Do not keep this information off our food labels any longer!

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,


Barbara Burgwin
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