

Date: 3-12-01

Dockets Management Branch (HFA 30.5)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fisher's Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

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RE: DOCKET NO. OOD-1598, Labeling of Biotech Food and DOCKET NO. OON-1396

To whom it may concern:

I am outraged by the FDA's new policy that makes labeling of **biotech/genetically** engineered (GE) foods voluntary. Even though tens of thousands of people have already expressed their desire for mandatory labeling and thorough safety testing of GE foods, your agency still fails to require these actions. This new, voluntary policy is an insult to consumers, and **irresponsibly** ignores strong scientific evidence of numerous potential health and environmental risks **from** GE foods.

These foods have not been tested for long-term health effects and have already caused irreparable damage to the environment. GE foods could have reduced nutritional values, be toxic, cause allergic reactions, and prove a continuing drain on the immune system. The FDA failed to consider what could happen to human health once these foods comprise a significant portion of our diets. In finding that GE foods are by definition "substantially equivalent" to non-GE food, And in making safety testing the manufacturer's responsibility, the **FDA failed** in its duty to protect the American public from corporations that acknowledge that they are in the business of selling food, not testing **it** for safety.

I am strongly opposed to the voluntary labeling policy, which denies consumers their basic right to know what is in their food. 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 GE foods prove hazardous.

We have a right to choose the food that we believe is the most wholesome and safest food to eat. Without a mandatory labeling scheme for GE foods and irradiated foods, I will have no way of knowing how my food has been processed and altered. I will not accept your attempt to make my **family** guinea pigs and lab rats for **these** untested foods. **I urge you** to require **consumer labeling** of ALL foods produced using biotechnology.

Sincerely,



Your name and address

Anna L. Swain  
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