

8 March, 2001

Re: Docket No. OON-1396 & Docket No. OOD-1598
FDA Commissioner. Docket Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

TO FDA COMMISSIONER:

Your unconscionable regulatory decisions are really beginning to interfere with my life and freedom of choice. The FDA needs to start doing what it is entrusted to do. Something that has been forgotten of late amidst all the promotion and proliferation of untested, unlabeled, unnecessary and potentially dangerous biotechnology creations. Let me refresh your memory. **Protect the public's health, right to know, freedom of choice and right to informed consent!!!** What a novel idea!

Soybeans are the largest mutated crop. Genetic contamination has polluted last year's corn crop. Now the genetic code of other staples such as rice and wheat is in jeopardy. It seems no foods are to escape DNA manipulation. It's a virtual epidemic! Can you say 'MUTANT PLANET'?

I am trying not to be a guinea pig this genetic experimentation. So my strategy has been to eat organically. I grow as much food as I can and don't eat processed foods. But because the contamination is so widespread, even **organics** are being compromised. All this due to your short-sighted promotion of the biotech industry.

I've stopped eating corn; the pollen drifted everywhere. I won't even use baking powder which is in a cornstarch base. One by one foods are being eliminated from my diet. **WHAT WILL I DO WHEN THERE IS NO UNADULTERATED FOOD LEFT TO EAT!**

IT IS OUTRAGEOUS THAT THIS REGULATORY IDIOCY SHOULD BE INTERFERING WITH MY EVERYDAY LIFE AND PERSONAL NOURISHMENT CHOICES.

The recently proposed Rules for regulating biotech foods are a joke! They could more accurately be called Rules for' biotech promotion!!! Wake' up!!!! Consumers either don't want GE foods at all or they want them labeled at a minimum. What will it take to get you to listen to our concerns and do your job????

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Ideally, there should be a moratorium on planting these crops until long-term environmental and multi-generational human health safety testing has been adequately done by independent labs NOT the in-house, **bought-and-paid-for-**by-industry variety.

At the very least these foods need to be labeled as containing GE modified ingredients. Consumers have a right to know and to informed consent. Industry must be held fully liable for any unforeseen negative environmental and health effects. (Think tobacco but involving every living thing on the planet.) You might reply, 'This stuff is perfectly safe. (Tell that to the monarch butterflies.) No one's dropped dead yet.' YET being the operative word. We've heard these reassurances a hundred, a thousand times before. Need I remind you that the same chemical industries that have poisoned our water and air, depleted our **soil** and brought pesticide-laced, nutrient-depleted crops to our tables are responsible for the biotech explosion? We're not buying it anymore.

The fast-track commercialization of genetically engineered foods goes beyond 'crimes against humanity'. It is a 'crime against' the **planet**'. May you some day be held fully accountable for your participation and facilitation in unleashing this genetic genie. I, for one, **will** not stand by as a silent collaborator.

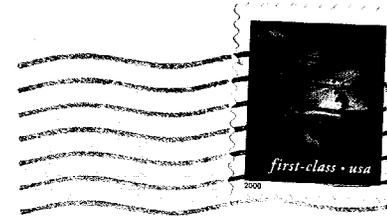
Shouting out loud in Texas,



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cc. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
Senator Phil Gramm
Representative Ron Paul
George W. Bush, White House
Dick Cheney, White House
Christine Todd-Whitman, EPA
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