

9457 U.S. Highway 45
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Docket No. OON-1396 & Docket No. OOD-1598
FDA Commissioner, Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD. 20852

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to express my opposition to the FDA's new proposed rule and guidance on genetically engineered (GE or GM) foods.

Mandatory labeling must be required. Without mandatory labeling neither consumer nor health professional will know if an allergic or toxic reaction was the result of a genetically engineered food. **Consumer** will also be deprived of the critical knowledge they need to hold food producers liable should any of these novel foods prove hazardous. Also those **people** with religious convictions that restricts certain foods be consumed could be forced to eat something not allowed by their religion. I hope American citizens still have FREEDOM OF RELIGION.

The thought that there has been genetic engineering for centuries as farmers breed plants and animals for desired traits is false. There has been hybridizing for centuries which is "like kinds" being bred together such as carrots to carrots etc. Genetic engineering is "unlike kinds" being joined.

What will genetically engineered crops do to our environment? We already know the modified corn products are killing the Monarch Butterfly. Where is the research on pollens from a modified crop blowing onto a field of non-modified crops? Will the **non-modified** crops **automatically** become modified because of hybridizing? Can science guarantee that my crops will be free of modification so they will be organic? After a modified crop is harvested and the residue is plowed back to the land will there be any undiserable elements polluting the land, rivers and lakes? It is obvious that enough research has not been done, the whole program is running blind.

All genetically engineered or modified foods or combination of food including wholly or **partical** modification foods must be labeled as such. This labeling must be as plain and complete as the ingredients we now have on products. I should be able to easily see how a product has been produced

A copy of this letter is being sent to Seniators Kohl, Fiengold and Rep. Petri.

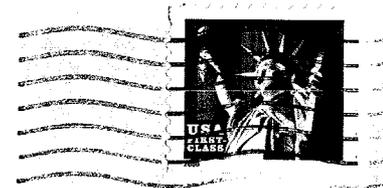
Sincerely,
Robert R. Beck

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