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7020 Lanewood Avenue, # 107
Los Angeles, CA 90028

March 8, 2001

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

RE: Labeling Genetically Engineered Foods

Dear Commissioner:

I am extremely concerned that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has proposed regulations that still fail to require labels or safety tests on genetically engineered (GE) food. Labels on GE foods are required in Japan, Russia, and throughout Europe, yet your new proposal continues to deny Americans the right to know what is in our food.

Labels must be required to protect the public from potential health effects that could only be traced if GE foods can be identified, yet FDA's "voluntary labeling" guidelines will leave thousands of unlabeled GE foods on our supermarket shelves. Furthermore, the agency's proposed rule only requires companies to notify FDA when bringing GE foods to market, but it fails to require any safety testing. Doctors and scientists have warned about the potential for GE foods to trigger dangerous allergies, change the nutritional value of foods, and cause irreversible harm to the environment. FDA appears to be playing politics with our food, disregarding science-based precautions that other countries have implemented.

I urge you to reconsider this proposal and insure that GE foods are subject to pre-market testing and labeling. Americans deserve the same protections as the rest of the world.

Sincerely,



Sam Ritchie

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Sam Ritchie
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