

5415 '01 MAR 19 P3:56

118 10 Gravois  
St. Louis, MO 63127  
February 17, 2001

FDA Commissioner  
Dockets Management Branch (HFA 305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fisher's Lane, rm. 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket No. OON-1396, and OOD-1598

Dear FDA,

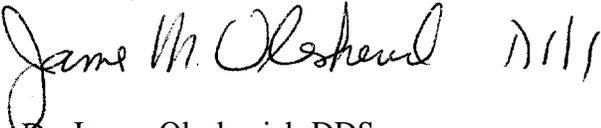
I am outraged by your new policies on genetically engineered (GE) foods. Despite overwhelming consumer demand, your agency still fails to require safety testing and mandatory labeling for GE foods. Your "notification" policy is an insult to consumers, and irresponsibly ignores strong scientific evidence of numerous potential health and environmental risks to GE foods. You should be aware that these foods could be toxic, could cause allergic responses, could have lower nutrition value, could compromise immune responses in consumers, and could cause irreparable damage to the environment.

I am also greatly opposed to your new "voluntary labeling" policy, which denies consumers a basic right to know. 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 of these novel foods prove hazardous.

Your proposed rules ignore serious concerns, and appear to be a decision made to convenience industry at the expense of public health and the environment. I will not accept your attempt to make me a guinea pig of these untested foods, and I trust you will take my concern along with the thousands of others into serious consideration.

I will expect to hear from you promptly on this vital issue for ourselves and our planet.

Sincerely,

  
Dr. James Oleskevich DDS

C 2922

OOD\_1598

11810 Grannis Rd.  
St. Louis, MO 63127



FDA Commissioner  
5630 Fiske's Lane, Rm 1061  
Rockville, MD

20857/0001



20852

---