March 24, 2001 DATE

FDA Commissioner
Docket No. 00N-1396/00D-1598 '01 APR -4 A10:54
FDA Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
FDA
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Commissioner:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the FDA's new proposed rules on genetically engineered (GE) foods. The FDA's voluntary labeling and notification proposals are totally inadequate. There is strong scientific evidence of many potential health and human and environmental risks of GE foods. Many of these foods, could be toxic, cause allergic responses, have lower nutrition value and cause immune system response problems in humans. The FDA has not gone far enough in protecting human health.

I urge you to require proper labeling of food and food ingredients.

I also urge the FDA to not assume GE foods are safe; therefore, they should be subject to mandatory testing before they go on supermarket shelves. (And all GE foods should be removed from supermarket shelves until they have been safety tested and labeled. Furthermore, there should be a moratorium

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on all GE foods until long-term studies show they are safe for human health and our environment.

You are very quick to denounce the value of herbs and other natural compounds. Why are you so willing to assume that foods which have undergone chemical changes in laboratories are safe?

Consumers have a right to know what ingredients are in our food, and if our food has been genetically engineered, irradiated, etc. To only require "voluntary" labeling violates this right - and puts profits over the health of humans and our planet.

Sincerely,

Patricia Murphy
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