8/20/99

Dear Commissioner Henney,

8190 '99 AUG 26 A9:38

I am very concerned that I am eating genetically engineered foods without being told that fact. I am sending you this letter to insist that the FDA require genetically engineered foods to be labeled as such, regardless of whether the food is in its whole form or as an ingredient in proceised foods.

The FDA is allowing genetically engineered foods to come to market unlabeled, even though public opinion polls show a vast majority of Americans want them labeled. In January, 81 percent of those surveyed told Time magazine they want labels on genetically modified foods. Labeling is important for a number of reasons. People who have food allergies may be at risk if they eat foods that contain genes from other foods to which they are allergic. People with certain ethical or religious beliefs worry about inadvertently eating genes from foods they would not knowingly consume. And many people are worried about health and environmental issues.

Varieties of potatoes and corn, for example, are currently being sold that have been genetically engineered to contain the Bt toxin (Bacillus thuringienis). The Bt toxin stays in the cell structure of the plants and is deadly enough to kill insects. We are being told these foods are safe for human consumption, but we have heard that before about DDT and many other pesticides later shown to be cancer causing. C.5882

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I DO NOT WANT TO EAT GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOODS THAT CONTAIN THE BT TOXIN !!! Nor do I want to eat future products such as tomatoes that contain the gene from a fish! But without labeling I cannot avoid it. So I am asking you to require labeling of all genetically engineered foods. Similar labeling already is required in Europe and Australia.

Sincerely,

A Very Concerned American

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Commissioner of USFDA
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