154 PRINCETON-HIGHTSTOWN RD
PRINCETON JUNCTION, NJ
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SEPT. 6, 1999

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JANE HENNEY, M.D.
5600 FISHERS LANE
ROCKVILLE, MD. 20857

DEAR COMMISSIONER HENNEY,

I AM WRITING THIS LETTER TO YOU REGARDING THE SUBJECT OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED (GE) AND MODIFIED FOOD. IT IS OF GREAT CONCERN TO MYSELF AS WELL AS MANY OF THE PEOPLE THAT I KNOW, THAT BIOLOGICALLY ALTERED FOOD HAS NOT BEEN TESTED OVER TIME FOR SAFETY TOWARDS BOTH HUMANS AND OUR ENVIRONMENT. THE REGULATIONS THAT ALLOW FOR SUCH THINGS AS: GRAFTING GENES FROM FLOUNDER INTO TOMATOES, CREATING CROPS THAT PRODUCE THEIR OWN VERSION OF PESTICIDES THEREBY, OVER THE COURSE OF TIME, CROSS-BREEDING WITH THE VERY WEEDS THEY SOUGHT TO KILL AND CREATING "SUPER-WEEDS", AND IT HAS ALREADY BEEN PROVEN THAT BIOENGINEERED PLANTS KILL MONARCH BUTTERFLIES.

I AM NOT A SCIENTIST, NOR AM I IN THE MEDICAL PROFESSION, AND I CAN CLEARLY SEE HOW BIOTECHNOLOGY MAY BE A THREAT TO OUR TOTAL SUSTAINABLE ECOLOGY. THE CYCLES OF PLANTLIFE ARE CONNECTED TO INSECT LIFE, BIRDLIFE, AND WILDLIFE. AND OF COURSE, HUMAN LIFE. BIOTECHNOLOGY IS CLEARLY IN FAVOR OF BIG INDUSTRY, AND NOT IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CONSUMER.

WHAT I FIND TO ALSO NOT BE FITTING WITH PROTECTING THE CONSUMER IS THAT UNLABELED (GE) PRODUCTS COMPOSE UP TO 60% OF THE PRODUCTS THAT ARE IN AMERICAN GROCERIES, AND THAT THE UNITED STATES IS RESPONSIBLE FOR 74% OF

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THE (GE) PRODUCTION THAT IS TAKING PLACE WORLD-WIDE. IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT CERTAIN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WILL NOT EVEN ALLOW OUR PRODUCTS INTO THEIR COUNTRIES WITHOUT MANDATORY LABELING. ENGLAND HAS COINED THESE PRODUCTS AS "FRANKENFOODS". I FORGOT TO EVEN MENTION THE SUBJECT OF FOOD ALLERGIES. USING BIOTECHNOLOGY ON VEGETATION IN OUR FARMLANDS IS CLEARLY A TENUOUS ONE.

COMMISSIONER, I AM REQUESTING THAT YOU RESEARCH THIS MATTER EXTENSIVELY. CONSUMERS HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO KNOW WHAT WE ARE EATING. LABELING ON (GE) PRODUCTS NEEDS TO BE MANDATORY. I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU REGARDING THIS HEALTH ISSUE.

WITH ALL RESPECT,

Michelle R. Bernardo

MICHELLE R. BERNARDO
GRADUATE STUDIES, THE COLLEGE OF NJ
DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELOR EDUCATION

Michelle R. Bernardo
154 Princeton-Hightstown Rd.
Princeton JCT, NJ 08550

33USA

JANE HENNEY, M.D.
COMMISSIONER FDA
5600 FISHERS LANE
ROCKVILLE, MD. 20857