Betsy Sise
Rolfing • Counseling

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11/29/99

Dear Commissioner Henney:

I am deeply concerned about the increased amount of genetically engineered foods that are appearing in the market about which the average (or any consumer for that matter) knows nothing. Splicing in virus genes, such as in Bt corn, or flounder genes such as in the Flavr Savr tomato involves tampering with life forms that could not cross in nature. We do not yet know the long term effects of such genetic engineering, not only on people who consume the food, but also on other life forms in nature. What are we doing to the overall balance of nature and the environment? Will we discover environmental damage such as we discovered with the use of pesticides & chlorofluorocarbons?

I would like as a consumer to know what I am eating. When I buy corn I would like to know that it is corn, not corn with a virus in it, or tomato with hidden flounder genes. I think we have a right to choose

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what we are eating, and in order to do that, things must be accurately labelled. People with food allergies have no way of knowing whether they are consuming novel foods with new potential allergens. Individuals with ethical or religious dietary principals are unwittingly consuming foods which contain genes from other species.

The bottom line — please require labelling of genetically engineered food!

Thank you,

sincerely,

Betsy Sise
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Norwich, VT 05055

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FDA
Commissioner Jane Henney
FDA Docket Management Branch
Docket # 99N-4282
5630 Fishers Lane Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

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