

Subj: concerned consumer
Date: 00-05-24 13:16:11 EDT
From: Nlitvak
To: president@whitehouse.gov
CC: vice.president@whitehouse.gov

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May 24th, 2000

Commissioner Jane Henney
Docket No. 00P-1211/CP1
FDA Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD. 20852

Dear Commissioner Henney,

I write this letter as a very concerned consumer. I have been following with much interest, the progress of the governments actions with respect to the issue of genetically modified foods. And I have a concern that the FDA may be acting in haste, without adequate research and investigation into this matter.

While there have been many claims as to the efficacy and upside to such a practice, there remains to be seen whether these claims truly bear whole and healthy "fruit" as it were. There have been studies done that have disputed the claims by those who would believe that the GE foods are the answer to the problems of pesticide pollution, increasing crop yields and feeding the hungry. In fact, the Institute for Food and Development Policy has said that the inadequate food supply is the number one misconception regarding world hunger. The institute blames world hunger on poverty, inequality and lack of access to food...in that order.

In addition to that, we are embarking into an unknown, unproven and inadequately tested area that could portend havoc on our already fragile ecosystem! The downsides are frightening to think about. Studies have shown that with GE foods, there is increased resistance to antibiotics, potential introduction of new toxins into the environment, risk of development by the population of allergies, and a host of other calamities possible. Not that I want to sound like "Chicken Little" here, but it seems to me, that prudence and calm deliberate thought must be undertaken before any serious harm be done to us and our world here. There are afterall implications that affect all of us on the planet. The genetically engineered crops have the potential to spread, via pollination, to other crops, and all of a sudden you have a situation where its beyond anyone's control, and going back is no longer an option...Scientists have already concluded that such tampering may in fact create "superbugs" and "superweeds" that grow and proliferate to compound an already compromised environment. That prospect is right out of a science fiction nightmare...and yet...it is up to us...through the decisions we make, and the actions we take today, that will impact our future. I think that the beautiful Monarch butterfly could be our "canary in the coal mine" here. They were stunted and killed by eating pollen from genetically modified corn! And if we are to learn from our neighbors it should be noted ...the European governments have enacted legislation to require the labeling of all such foods to alert the consumer who may choose not to play russian roulette with their food choices.

In conclusion I ask that the following reasonable steps be taken :

- 1) That all Genetically Engineered foods be labeled to give me a choice.
- 2) That there be a moratorium an all new GE foods since there are no long term studies exploring their impact on human health or the environment.
- 3) That there be mandatory pre-market safety testing on all GE foods.

In so doing, you will be doing what we have to elected you to do...that is allowing us to live and grow and raise our families

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with the assurance that you have our best interest at heart, that our safety will not be compromised to satisfy a few and that we will have a healthy and robust world to pass along to the future generations of our country. I have always liked the teachings of our indigenous peoples with respect to the future...make the kind of choices today that will shine favorably on the next seven generations...and I ask you today to consider what is before you with that same respect.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Nancy Litvak