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March 3, 2000

Michelle A. Smith
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (HFS 306)
Food and Drug Administration
200 C Street Southwest
Washington, D.C. 20204

Re: Where have all the sprouts gone?

Dear Ms. Smith:

I am responding to the recent implementation of mandatory testing and seed disinfection treatment for sprout growers. I treasure this special place we live in, the ideal climate for a wide variety of organic produce. I frequently shop at the local Farmer's Market and regularly shop at the markets that sell local organic produce. I know I can trust organic, especially when I buy it from the source.

Your agency has imposed a mandatory testing procedure that will not only make the seed inorganic and extremely toxic, but will cost small farmers thousands of extra dollars which threaten to shut them down. Meanwhile, your agency allows the sale and consumption of meat infected with e-coli and salmonella, as long as it's cooked to death, it's acceptable. The FDA is promoting genetic engineering, a new technology without any safeguards and allowing it in our markets, making us the guinea pigs for corporate profits. Without the benefit of labeling and certification of non-GE foods, we aren't given the choice. This is a democracy. We the consumers have a voice.

I don't understand how the FDA can impose such harsh testing procedures on the organic farmers, who are certified and produce optimum products for our consumption, and then allow the agri-businesses to impose their toxic waste in our food supply. I for one (and I speak for 80% of the American public according to a Times poll), find this unacceptable and will vote with my wallet and my voice.

Please respond with the facts not propaganda. Be a consumer advocate and protect us, as we're all affected. This genetic mutation of our land, our crops and environment (that's us) is a dangerous course to continue. Be fair to the organic farmer who's been producing optimum, healthy food for centuries. It's already proven. We know there's enough food on the planet, the fact that we do not distribute it accordingly, is why people starve. An economics professor (I don't have her name handy) who received a Nobel Prize has proved that. Let's be fair. We deserve mandatory labeling for GE foods and certification for non-GE foods; i.e.: organic.

Sincerely,



Erin Davidson
Cc: Santa Barbara Sprouts/ Rick Lemke

990-4488

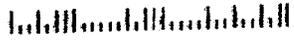
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Attn: Michelle A. Smith 

CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 99D 4488/C75

See File Number: 99D 4489/C76