

August 4, 2000

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Commissioner Jane Henney
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane
Room 1061 (HFA-305)
Rockville, MD 20852
RE: Docket No. OOP-1211/CP1

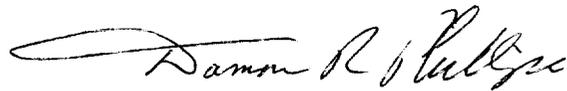
Dear Dr. Henney:

I'm writing about FDA's proposed changes to its regulatory policy on genetically engineered (GE) food. These changes fail to mandate premarket safety testing and labeling of GE food. Consumers will have no way of knowing whether or not they are eating genetically engineered food that potentially contains new allergens or toxins.

Consumer polls consistently show that the American public overwhelmingly supports mandatory labeling of GE food. The FDA's proposal outlines a voluntary "GE-free" labeling scheme that shifts the burden of labeling from food companies that choose to use GE ingredients to those producers that do not use GE ingredients.

The proposed regulations require companies to notify and consult with the FDA before marketing GE food and to submit specific information on the product to be marketed. Under this new policy, the FDA still does not require stringent safety testing before the food is marketed. Mandatory notification and consultation are no substitute for rigorous premarket safety testing of GE food.

Sincerely,

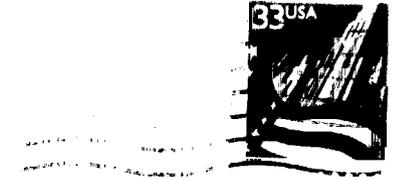


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OOP-1211

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