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May 23, 2000

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

Re: Docket Number 00P-1211/CP1
Genetically Engineered Food

Dear Ms. Henney:

I am writing with regard to Docket Number 00P-1211/CP1 which deals with the issue of genetically engineered food and the proposed testing and labeling of same. I am learning more and more about this subject from an increasing number of sources and I would like to express my concerns.

First and foremost, the fact that people are even attempting - let alone getting away with genetically altering our nations food is ludicrous and extremely dangerous, potentially causing irreparable damage to both the ecosystem and the health of the entire population. The facts that I have learned are absolutely astounding. Food that Americans eat everyday are engineered to contain pesticides. Millions of Americans are ingesting pesticide and they don't even know it! You'd think that someone would have the decency to tell us. I believe we have the right to know that we may be slowly killing ourselves by eating what are believed to be healthy fruits and vegetables. We are eating corn who's pollen killed monarch butterflies in a study conducted at Cornell University. Corn that is not only eaten off the cob, but processed into tortilla chips, cereals and so on.

Other recent studies show that in some of this insane engineering, genetic material which is resistant to antibiotics is being used in our food. The implications of this alone are mind boggling. Imagine what devastation would sweep this nation, this planet, if it was found that eating those foods caused people to also be resistant to antibiotics over a period of time. Imagine how many of us would die of currently treatable illnesses such as strep throat and tuberculosis alone. But we don't have a choice. Currently there is no mandatory testing of these foods for safety and no mandatory labeling. We naively trust America's farmers - we trust our government to be not only smarter, but fair and just to the American public and everyone else in this world that eats imported, American grown food.

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So you might say - find a little patch of land and grow your own food. Well once again there's a catch. Even if we could all do that, pollen is carried from the genetically altered plants by insects and spread to ecosystems outside of these mutated growing fields. Seeds are carried by birds. The earth and its fragile ecosystems are being altered by scientists and farmers. The fate of the people ultimately lies in their hands. The results could be catastrophic. This damage cannot be undone. Insects will die. Plants, animals, possibly even people will mutate. We may become unable to fight disease or we may be causing our own new diseases - and for what? To save a few dollars? To yield bigger crops? The fact that there are people starving in this country is not for lack of food, it's for lack of compassion and for the greed that comes with the almighty dollar.

While I am aware that the chances of these facts changing are nonexistent, I ask that steps be taken so that we, the people, can protect ourselves to the best of our ability. I ask that mandatory testing be performed on these foods before they are put on the market. I also ask that all genetically engineered foods and all products containing genetically engineered food be labeled as such, so that we have a choice.

Please think of your own life and the lives of those around you. Look at the children, the infants, who are so innocent and naive. Parents everywhere are unknowingly feeding these children foods containing pesticides and antibiotic resistant genes. It's like something out of an old sci-fi movie, but amazingly enough, it's happening. We need to have a choice. We have the right to know what we put in our bodies and the bodies of our children.

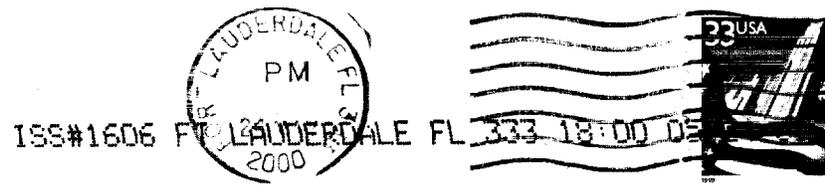
Please consider the foregoing and also recognize that the people speak through you. Please hear us. Please help us. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Angela M. Sonzogni

cc: President Clinton
Vice-President Gore
US Senate
US House of Representatives

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