

June 4, 2000

Martin P. Carmody Jr. JUN 12 P2:12  
457 Forest Green Dr.  
St. Louis, MO 63119

Commissioner Jane Henney  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
FDA Dockets Management Branch  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

Re.: Docket No. 00P-1211/CP1

Dear Commissioner Henney:

Good morning. I am writing to ask you to do everything within your power to support and advance the labeling of genetically-engineered (GE) food products. Within the scope of my awareness, this is the most important issue with which the FDA has ever dealt.

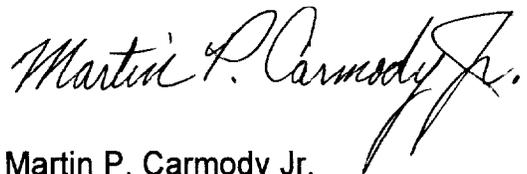
You are probably receiving many letters about the biological risks associated with the widespread use of these products, and I agree with them. (I have not yet heard a cogent rebuttal of the issues raised in Beyond Evolution, by Dr. Michael W. Fox, for example.) Serious questions of safety are being circumvented under the rubric of "sound science," where that term is being used as rhetorical cover for the real force driving the decision-making process, which is economic muscle.

Beyond questions of the general welfare and of the propriety of basing decisions relating to it on profit considerations, however, is the simple notion that everything this country supposedly stands for is based on one's freedom to make one's own decisions, within certain limitations. We will cross a dreadful "line in the sand" if we decide (or more accurately, if we allow it to be decided for us) that we are not entitled to make our own decisions about what we eat.

Ms. Henney, I don't want to feed GE food to my children. If you want to feed it to your family, that should be your right. If I do not, that should be my right. Please resist the agenda that would deprive me of the ability to choose what I eat.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

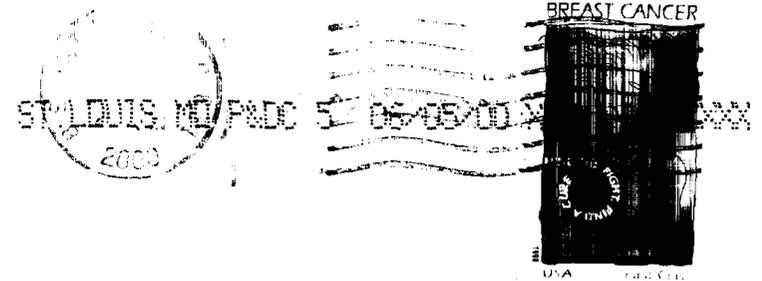


Martin P. Carmody Jr.

00P-1211

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Carmody  
457 Forest Green Dr.  
St. Louis, MO 63119



Commissioner Jane Henney  
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