

Commissioner, Food & Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch (HFA 305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fisher's Lane, rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

1553 '02 FEB 12 P2:31

RE: Docket No. 00N-1396, and 00D-1598

February 8, 2001

Dear Commissioner,

FDA's recently proposed standards on genetically-engineered (GE) foods fail to protect consumers, and should be strengthened. Overwhelmingly, the public supports testing and labeling of products that contain GE foods. Americans deserve to know what we are feeding our families.

Your "notification" policy is an insult to consumers, and irresponsibly ignores strong scientific evidence of numerous potential health and environmental risks to GE foods. You should be aware that these foods could be toxic, could cause allergic responses, could have lower nutrition value, could compromise immune responses in consumers, and could cause irreparable damage to the environment.

Your proposed system of "voluntary labeling" is bogus. Companies *already* have the right to label products "GE free." Those who want to give consumers a choice bear the cost of testing and labeling, while companies who do use GE ingredients are not obligated to disclose it.

Without mandatory labeling, neither consumers nor health professionals will know if an allergic or toxic reaction was the result of a genetically engineered food. Consumers will also be deprived of the critical knowledge they need to hold food producers liable should any of these novel foods prove hazardous.

This proposed rule favors industry, rather than the public your administration should protect. Please stop making Americans guinea pigs—require the testing and labeling of GE products!

Sincerely,



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