2-8-01

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Manchester, CT 06040

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Commissioner
Food + Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
5630 Fishers Lane
Room 1061
Rockville MD 20852

To Whom it May Concern,

I am very concerned that the Food + Drug Administration (FDA) has proposed regulations that still fail to require safety tests or labels on genetically engineered (GE) food. Labels on GE foods are required in Japan, Russia + throughout Europe, yet this proposal continues to deny Americans the right to know what is in our food.

Labels must be required to protect the public from potential health effects that could only be traced if GE foods can be identified, yet FDA's "voluntary labeling" guidelines will leave thousands of unlabeled GE foods on our supermarket shelves. Furthermore, this proposed rule does not require any safety testing, but only requires companies to notify FDA when bringing GE foods to market. Scientists + doctors have warned about the potential for GE foods to change the nutritional value of foods, trigger dangerous allergies, and cause irreversible harm to the environment.

I urge you to reconsider this proposal and insure that GE foods are subject to pre-market testing and labeling. Americans deserve the same protections as the rest of the world. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Paul M. Lappen

DOD-1598

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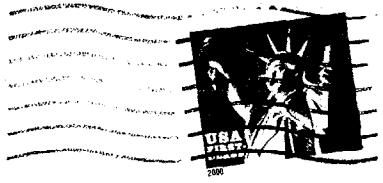

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