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February 27, 2001

FDA COMMISSIONER
Docket No. 00N-1396/00D-1598
FDA Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville MD 20852

Gentlemen:

I am writing to adamantly oppose the FDA's proposed rule on voluntary labeling of genetically engineered foods.

I will not address the lack of safety testing, the environmental risks, or any other issue. If some people want genetically engineered foods, they have every right to have them.

HOWEVER, you MUST legislate MANDATORY LABELING of genetically engineered foods. Much labeling is already required, for instance, if a food contains peanuts in any form it must be labeled; sodium content is labeled for people who wish to reduce their sodium intake, and genetically engineered foods should be labeled for people who wish to know what they are buying.

As consumers we have a right to know what we're buying. We have a right to know if we are buying genetically engineered foods. Whether you agree or not that there is any risk, you have no right to withhold information that most of us want to know.

Sincerely,


Cathie LaZier

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FDA Commissioner
Docket No. OON-1396/OOD-1598
FDA Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

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Dear FDA,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the agency's recently announced rules and regulations regarding genetically engineered foods.

Your voluntary labeling and notification proposals fail to protect the health of the population, as well as our environment. I believe we all have a right to know whether our foods could be toxic, or cause allergic responses, much less compromise our immune systems.

As a consumer I have no way of knowing which foods have been genetically engineered. Voluntary labeling violates my rights and could cause serious health consequences.

You and the Bush Administration need to know that our public wants mandatory safety testing and labeling of all GE foods. We also want GE foods taken out of our stores until they have been safety tested and labeled.

I, as well as a number of my Sisters and Associates join me in supporting the following:

All GE foods and food ingredients should be labeled so we are informed and have a choice.

GE foods should not be assumed to be safe and should be subject to mandatory pre-market safety testing.

There should be a moratorium on GE foods until long-term studies show they are safe for human health and the environment.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future. Thank you.

Michele Beiter, SSJ
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