

DARLENE HOOLEY
5th DISTRICT, OREGON

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ENTERPRISES



Congress of the United States
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January 23, 2001

Ms. Amy Buringrud
PO Box 65
Otis, OR 97368

Dear Ms. Buringrud:

Thank you for contacting me regarding H.R. 3377, the Genetically Engineered Food Right to Know Act. I appreciate hearing from you.

Food safety is a very important issue to me and I take it very seriously. However, I am also concerned about "over-regulating" our small business owners and farmers out of business. Many of our farmers and small business owners are already so heavily burdened by current regulations that I am apprehensive about setting new mandates for many of them.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is the agency responsible for the labeling of all foods except for meat, poultry, and some egg products. The FDA has determined that Genetically Modified foods would require labeling if:

- the gene transfer produces unexpected genetic effects;
- the levels of toxicant's in the food are significantly higher than present in other edible varieties of the same species that have **not** been modified;
- nutrients in the bio-engineered food differ from those in traditional varieties;
- the sources of the newly introduced genetic material come from a food plant associated with allergies found in humans;
- the food from the new variety differs significantly in composition from food of non-modified varieties;
- the food contains marker genes that theoretically could reduce the therapeutic effects of clinically useful antibiotics;
- the modified plants are developed to make substances like pharmaceuticals or polymers, as well as food; or the food is to be used for animal feed and has changes in nutrients or toxicants from the non-modified version.

Currently, by law, food producers are required to label their products if the genetic modification process changed the composition of the food product (as listed above). Genetically engineered food products that

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differ from traditional products in terms of nutrients, toxins or allergens must be labeled accordingly.

I am monitoring H.R. 3377 closely as it moves through the committee process. Please be assured that I will keep your views in mind should this bill come to the House floor for a vote.

Once again, thank you for contacting me regarding this important issue. Please feel free to contact me again if I can be of assistance to you in the future.

Sincerely,



DARLENE HOOLEY

Member of Congress

DH:CH



The Kroger Co. ♦ 1014 Vine Street ♦ Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-1100

Phone (513) 762-1589

February 13, 2001

Ms. Amy Buringrud
PO Box 65
Otis, OR 97368-0065

Dear Ms. Buringrud:

Thank you for your letter to Mr. Pichler. We appreciate your desire for information concerning the contents of the food you purchase for you and your family. The Kroger Co. does and always has relied on government standards and regulations to maintain a safe food supply.

Labeling of food products must be based on government regulations required only after the public's need for information is established. We must follow those guidelines.

Kroger will continue to follow developments in this area. At present, we have no plans to use or develop genetically engineered products for our Kroger-labeled grocery items.

Thanks again for taking the time to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Lector".

Joe Lector

Consumer Response Representative

Ref. # 380343