Gary A. Patton

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February 1, 2001

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

RE: Docket No. 00N-1396 & Docket No. 00D-1598

Dear Commissioner:

I am writing with respect to the above dockets to urge the following points:

- 1. Please require mandatory pre-market safety testing: Genetically engineered foods could be toxic, could cause allergic responses, could have lower nutritional value, and could compromise immune responses in consumers.
- 2. Please require mandatory pre-market environmental review: Genetically engineered crops and foods could cause irreparable damage to the environment, so there needs to be pre-market environmental review.
- 3. Please require mandatory labeling of genetically engineered foods: 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.
- 4. The proposed "Notification" policy is an insult to consumers: The current proposal irresponsibly ignores strong scientific evidence of numerous potential health and environmental risks of genetically engineered foods. These rules appear to be a decision made to convenience industry at the expense of public health, consumer information, and the environment.

Thank you for taking my strongly felt views into consideration.

Gary A. Patton

Land Watch monterey county

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