'01 FEB 15 P3 :20 February 12, 2001 4491

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

RE: Docket Number OOD-I 598

We have reviewed the draft guidance "Voluntary Labeling Indicating Whether Foods Have or Have Not Been Developed Using Bioengineering."

We are OPPOSED to voluntary labeling and want to see MANDATORY labeling listing the bioengineered foods in the product because:

Bioengineering develops foods by manual interspecies "GENE" transfer instead of through the traditional plant breeding method of procreation. Also, the human life span is approximately 70 years, and the current research and testing of bioengineered items in humans is very short term in relation to a human life span. Therefore, until complete data is available, we must have a choice by knowing what products contain bioengineered ingredients.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has given us a choice of organic vs. conventional produce by their new organic regulations. Therefore, we feel the FDA should give us the same choice of bioengineered vs. conventional foods by issuing regulations for the **MANDATORY** listing of bioengineered foods on product labels.

Edward F. Kurtik

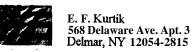
Elizabeth 7. Kurtik

Elizabeth F. Kurtik

568 Delaware Ave. Delmar, NY 12054

000-1598

C528



ŧ



()

DOCKETS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (HFA-305) FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION 5630 FISHERS LANE, RM 1061 ROCKVILLE, MD 20852

المار بالبين المار المار المراد واللوار وا