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

March 5, 2001

Re: Dockets No.OON-1396 & Docket No.OOD-1598

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing regarding the FDA's January 18, 2001 revisions to its policy on genetically engineered (GE) foods. The minor changes you propose are entirely inadequate.

The revisions should mandate pre-market safety testing and environmental review. In addition, mandatory labeling is critical if consumers are to protect themselves. The presence of GE foods in products should be open to public scrutiny, not filed with an agency in Washington under the cover of proprietary information. "Voluntary" notification is pointless, and ignores increasing scientific evidence of potential risks to the health of consumers and the environment from GE foods. Much stronger measures are called for.

The FDA should be working to protect consumers from agents in food that may impair the immune system, in addition to protecting the environment. Introducing GE crops into our fragile ecosystems may cause irreversible damage to the entire planet. Just as the feeding of animal by-products to cattle has brought about mad-cow disease, so could GE foods cause unlimited unforeseen repercussions.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Judith Frost

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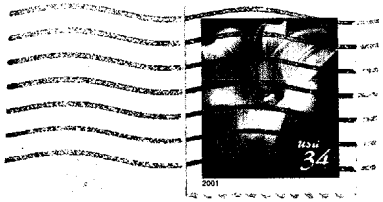

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