



February 13, 2001

Amy Buringrud
P.O. Box 65
Otis, OR 97368

Dear Amy:

Your letter regarding genetically engineered foods has been forwarded to my attention for response. As requested in your letter, I am providing a description of Albertson's position regarding that topic below.

While we are open to any additional information on this timely subject, we are in full agreement with the Public Policy Position adopted by the board of directors of the Food Marketing Institute and the Grocery Manufacturers of America.

It reads: With regard to genetically modified foods and biotechnology, Food Marketing Institute and the Grocery manufacturers of America believe:

1. Consumers have a basic right to know the relevant information about the products that they buy, including information about genetically modified foods or foods containing genetically modified ingredients. We support the role and responsibility of US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to determine appropriate food labeling.
2. The FDA should communicate a clear definition as to what constitutes genetically modified foods or food products.
3. Consultation with FDA should be carried out for all genetically modified foods or food ingredients. Such consultation should include a safety review and a determination as to appropriate labeling.
4. FDA should establish criteria for "GM Free" and "non-GM ingredient" labeling. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) should develop guidelines for advertising claims about food biotechnology.
5. There is an urgent need to educate the public about food biotechnology and genetically modified foods. This education will be most effective if undertaken as a cooperative effort between the business community, the government, and the scientific and consumer communities.

We hope this will give you the information you are looking for regarding our corporate position on this issue.

Sincerely,

Kent Killebrew
Corporate Director, Quality Assurance

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