



ONE OF THE STOP & SHOP COMPANIES, INC.

## The Stop & Shop Supermarket Company

QUINCY CENTER PLAZA • QUINCY, MASS.  
Mailing Address: P.O. BOX 1942, BOSTON, MA 02105

February 21, 2001

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

Dear Ms. Buringrud:

Thank you for taking the time to contact us regarding foods produced using biotechnology. Biotechnology, or genetic engineering, is not only one of the most active areas of science, but it is also an issue of public debate in many parts of the world. Advocates of biotechnology in agriculture hope to reduce the use of environmentally harmful and expensive chemicals by imparting crop protection abilities in the genetic make-up of the plants. Critics are concerned about uncertainties in human and ecological health.

Stop & Shop has no objections to the responsible use of safe biotechnology where there are demonstrable benefits for consumers. All food products, including those made with the help of biotechnology, must have approval by the regulatory authorities, based on their safety and environmental impact. In the US, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have this responsibility.

Stop & Shop supports the role and responsibility of the FDA to determine appropriate food labeling, and we support the FDA's labeling policy; that appropriate labels should be required if genetic engineering significantly changes the structural, functional or nutritional makeup of the food. Stop & Shop additionally believes it would be beneficial for FDA to set labeling guidelines for differentiating genetically modified from non-genetically modified foods. Stop & Shop also encourages the EPA and the FDA to maintain an active science-based monitoring program to ensure that only safe and wholesome products reach the market.

A wide range of foods contain genetically modified ingredients, because a significant proportion of the soy, corn, canola and cotton grown in the United States are genetically modified. Therefore products made in the US from these ingredients are likely to contain genetically modified ingredients, unless they are certified organic.

If you wish to avoid genetically modified foods, the best alternative is certified organic foods. The federal regulations being developed for organic foods, we anticipate, will not include the use of genetically modified foods or ingredients. It is our understanding that

00D-1598

C 2355

the organic foods industry supports this position, so even now you probably can rely on a certified organic food having little or no genetically modified ingredients.

Finally, we urge the biotech industry and food manufacturers to focus more on developing genetically modified products with clear advantages for consumers in terms of price, quality, health and sustainability.

Thanks, again, for taking the time to let us know of your concerns. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen Carroll".

Kathleen Carroll  
Manager of Consumer Relations