

Siri Beckman
P.O. Box 765 ❖ Stonington, ME 0461
February 7, 2001 5 02 FEB 13 11

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

Dear FDA,

I am writing in regards to **Docket No.s OOD-1598 and OON-1396** which address the labeling and pre-market testing of genetically engineered foods.

I have been following this issue closely for some time and am very disappointed in the FDA's response to overwhelming evidence of potential dangers connected to genetically engineered foods. This is a new technology which must be tested. Every new technology poses unique opportunities and liabilities. I believe that the corporations involved are only looking at the opportunities. If GE foods are so safe, why not test them and clarify the issue. Genes are additives, yet you do not even require the basic testing that any other food additive would have to pass.

Just a few of the very important issues are allergic reactions (8% of US children are now plagued with food allergies), crossing of species boundaries, and new potentially toxic proteins. The Starlink scandal and other Bt corn disasters have had the same impact as DDT did for the chemical age. The insidious and truly dangerous nature of synthetic chemicals and now GE foods is that their effects are not easily or immediately seen.

**American consumers deserve the right know what they are eating.
Labeling must be required.**

Sincerely,

Siri Beckman

00N-1396

C218