

February 27, 2001

FDA Commissioner
Docket # 00N-1396 / 00D-1598
FDA Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food & Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

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To Whom It May Concern:

I noted recently with interest and annoyance that the FDA has proposed inadequate new rules concerning genetically-engineered food.

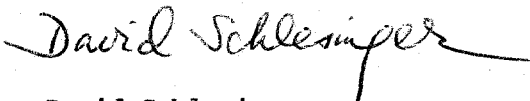
As I understand them, the proposed new rules would simply require food producers to notify the FDA prior to marketing a genetically-engineered food and would make labelling of genetically-engineered food voluntary.

These watered-down, industry-friendly rules are a slap in the face to consumers, who reasonably expect the FDA to fulfill its primary mandate of protecting the public from actual or potential hazards.

I suggest that the FDA withdraw its proposed new rules and replace them with rules that reflect the following ideas:

- 1) All genetically-engineered food should be required to undergo independent testing for allergic responses and toxicity before receiving approval for distribution and sale.
- 2) Genetically-engineered food that receives approval for distribution and sale should carry a clear label that describes the genetically-engineered component(s). The labelling should be mandatory. Consumers have a right to know what they are eating, regardless of whether or not they consider genetically-engineered food hazardous.

Yours truly,



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