

February 14, 2001

FDA Commissioner
Dockets Management Branch (HFA 305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fisher's Lane, rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

9563 '01 MAR -5 10:13

Re: Docket No. OON-1396 and OOD-1598

Dear FDA:

I am outraged by your new policies on genetically engineered (GE) foods. Despite overwhelming consumer demand, your agency still fails to require safety testing and mandatory labeling for GE foods. Your "notification policy is an insult to consumers, and irresponsibly ignores strong scientific evidence of numerous potential health and environmental risks to GE foods. You should be aware that these foods could be toxic, could cause allergic responses, could have lower nutrition value, could compromise immune responses in consumers, and could cause irreparable damage to the environment.

I am also greatly opposed to your new "voluntary labeling" policy, which denies consumers a basic right to know. Without mandatory labeling, neither consumers nor health professionals will know if an allergic or toxic reaction was the result of a genetically engineered food. Consumers will also be deprived of the critical knowledge they need to hold food producers liable should any of these novel foods prove hazardous.

Your proposed rules ignore serious concerns, and appear to be a decision made to convenience industry at the expense of public health and the environment. I will not accept your attempt to make me a guinea pig of these untested foods, and I trust you will take my concern along with the thousands of others into serious consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Rose C. Keenan

P.O.A.

OON 1396

C1482



The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has recently announced new rules and guidance on genetically engineered (GE) foods. Unfortunately, despite overwhelming consumer demand, the agency has still failed to require safety testing and mandatory labeling for GE foods. Instead of mandating safety testing, the FDA's new rule merely requires that food producers notify the agency before marketing a GE food. There is strong scientific evidence of numerous potential health and environmental risks of GE foods. These foods could be toxic, could cause allergic responses, could have lower nutrition value and could compromise immune responses in consumers. Under FDA's new notification rule, GE foods will reach supermarket shelves without any safety testing for these human health problems, much less any review of their environmental risks. As a result, millions of consumers will continue to be unknowing guinea pigs testing the safety of these foods. This is totally unacceptable.

As for labeling the FDA has decided to make all labeling of GE foods voluntary. Not surprisingly, no GE food producer has agreed to label their products. So consumers still have no way of knowing which foods have been genetically engineered. This voluntary labeling scheme not only violates the consumer's right to know, it also has health consequences. Without labeling, neither consumers nor health professionals will know if an allergic or toxic reaction was the result of a genetically engineered food. Consumers will also be deprived of the critical knowledge they need to hold food producers liable should any of these novel foods prove hazardous.

The good news is that these rules are not final. The FDA, as required by law, has opened a comment period to hear from the public. This comment period lasts until April 30. It is critical that the FDA hears from hundreds of thousands of Americans. We have provided you with post-cards so that you and one other friend or family member can comment directly to the FDA (you can also comment directly to the FDA electronically through our website www.foodsafety.gov). We need to let the FDA and the Bush Administration know that we will settle for nothing less than supermarket shelves until they have been safety tested and labeled.

For more information please visit The Center for Food Safety's website, www.centerforfoodsafety.org, or submit comments directly to the FDA through our campaign website, www.foodsafetynow.org. The Center for Food Safety is also a member of the Genetically Engineered Food Alert (GEFA) coalition, www.gefoodalert.org.

The Center for Food Safety is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All contributions to CFS are tax-deductible. The information enclosed describes one or more of The Center for Food Safety's activities. A copy of our latest financial report may be obtained by writing to The Center for Food Safety, 600 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E., Suite 302, Washington, DC, 20003. If you are a resident of the following states, you may obtain information directly by contacting:

In Florida, a copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling 1-800-439-7932, TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE. Maryland: Copies of documents and information submitted by The Center for Food Safety may be obtained from the Mississippi Secretary of State's office by calling 1-800-252-6157. New Jersey: Information filed with the Attorney General concerning this matter may be obtained from the Center for Food Safety, 21401, 1-800-822-4510, Mississippi. The official registration and financial information of The Center for Food Safety may be obtained from the State of Michigan by calling 1-800-487-7392. Toll-free within the State. Minnesota: Copies of documents and information submitted by The Center for Food Safety may be obtained from the State of New Jersey by calling 1-800-252-6157. New York: Information may be obtained from the State Secretary of State by calling 1-800-487-7392. Pennsylvania: The official registration and financial information available from the State Secretary of State by calling 1-800-786-1343. Washington: You may obtain additional financial disclosure information from the Secretary of State at 1-800-332-6286. West Virginia: West Virginia residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial documents from the Secretary of State, State Capitol Complex, Charleston, WV 25305.

REGISTRATION WITH A STATE AGENCY DOES NOT CONSTITUTE OR IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THAT STATE.

DEAR FDA,

I am writing to express my opposition to the FDA's new proposed rule and guidance on genetically engineered (GE) foods. The agency's voluntary labeling and notification proposals are totally inadequate to protect human health, the environment, and my right to know. I fully support the following:

- All GE foods and food ingredients should be labeled so I am informed and have a choice.
- GE foods should not be assumed to be safe and should be subject to mandatory pre-market safety testing.
- There should be a moratorium on GE foods until long-term studies show they are safe for human health and the environment.

Name: Ms Anne Cavetta
 Address: 3 Baton Rouge Rd - 6F
 City, State, Zip: New York NY 10010
 Signature: _____

PLACE STAMP HERE

FDA COMMISSIONER
 Docket No. 00N-1396 / 00D-1598
 FDA Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
 Food and Drug Administration
 5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
 Rockville, MD 20852

Please sign, put in an envelope and mail to:

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- GE foods should not be assumed to be safe and should be subject to mandatory pre-market safety testing.
- There should be a moratorium on GE foods until long-term studies show they are safe for human health and the environment.

Name: Mr. Rose Roman
 Address: 3 Baton Rouge Rd - 6F
 City, State, Zip: New York NY 10010
 Signature: _____

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THE CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY
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