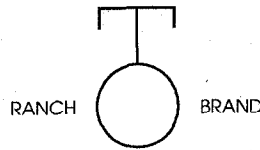


T.O. Cattle Company



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28 February 2001

Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Room 3061
5630 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket #OON-1396 and #OOD-1598

Dear Commissioners,

We are most concerned that the Food and Drug Administration has proposed rules about genetically engineered foods that ignore our right to know what is in our food. These rules make labeling voluntary, and actually impose significant burdens on those who volunteer to do so.

These rules also ignore our right that our food be safe. The FDA--and everyone else--is becoming increasingly educated about the risks of GE foods for consumers, for environment, and for farming communities. And yet these rules make no requirement that GE foods be tested for safety in any respect. At the same time others of our global countrymen, from Europe to Japan, are raising the barriers to even experimentation with these foods. We believe that substantial evidence exists to justify imposition of objective, scientific scrutiny of GE foods prior to their introduction to consumer markets.

Just this past week we have become aware of two states, Colorado and North Dakota, in which legislators have introduced bills to regulate GE foods, either by labeling or by requiring special controls for GE foods. As you know, these are only the latest states to take such actions since the Starlink fiasco.

It is apparent to us that private interests have gone too far and too fast in their haste to market GE foods. It is apparent to us that U.S. government regulatory agencies have simply failed in their mission of protecting public interests in respect of these products. We urge you to amend these rules to protect American citizens, as others of the world. Both labeling and pre-market testing for safety must be prescribed.

Very truly yours,

Joseph Morris

OON 1396

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