

FDA Commissioner
Docket No. 00N-1396 / 00D-1598
FDA Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305) 9 P2:41
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

February 25, 2001

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:

1. Immediately halting the growth, manufacture, dissemination and use of GE seeds and foods for human or animal consumption. Too many scientific studies demonstrate that GE foods are an environmental and health hazard, if not directly then indirectly because of the associated farming and spraying practices that are used.
2. If the above will not be done, then require clear labeling of all GE foods and food ingredients. This way I will be informed and can make the choice not to support or use such products. More importantly, this allows organic farmers and food manufacturers to maintain the integrity of their food products.
3. Mandatory posting on all farming locations using or growing GE foods. This way neighboring farms using organic or more sustainable farming practices will know to protect their own crops and livestock from contamination.
4. An FDA that conducts its own scientific research and field studies on the environmental and human health hazards of GE foods instead of relying on corporate sponsored studies for such information.
5. An FDA that protects the interests of the people of the United States above the interests of the corporations.

Sincerely,



Dean Ritter
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