

18 Jan., 2001

Dear Commissioner Henney,

I am concerned that the Food and Drug Administration's recent proposed rule does not require labeling or mandatory pre-market safety testing of genetically engineered (GE) foods. Under this proposal, companies are still allowed to bring GE food to the market without long-term evidence that this food is safe in the diet or the environment.

Without requirements for long-term safety testing, we will have no way to know if new toxins or allergens are being introduced, or if levels of existing toxins in these new foods are increased. Also, genetic engineering's use of antibiotic resistant genes may pose a health risk. Finally, FDA must consider the potential for irreversible harm to the environment from the release of GE organisms when developing requirements for safety testing.

Genetically engineered foods must be subject to pre-market safety testing and mandatory labeling. I expect your agency to safeguard the food supply and insure that GE foods are labeled,

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Izzo

since the Bush Administration is unlikely to give a damn about this or other critical environmental and health safety issues.

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