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Docket No. OON- 1396 & Docket No. OOD- 1598  
FDA Commissioner, Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food And Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061

Dear Sirs:

Genetic engineering involves manipulations of genes between **different** species and allows scientists to bypass the natural barriers which protect the genetic integrity of species. Foods containing or produced **from** genetic engineering can cause allergic responses, be toxic, have lowered nutritional value, and/or compromise immune responses in consumers. Likewise, genetically engineered crops can have unpredictable, irreversible changes to the environment.

FDA's proposal for companies to merely voluntarily consult with FDA concerning the safety of their foods is totally inadequate. FDA must require **MANDATORY** pre-market safety testing.

FDA's proposed rule that environmental review procedures be exempt under the National Environmental Policy Act does not protect the environment. FDA must require **MANDATORY pre-market** environmental review.

FDA's proposed rule makes all labeling of genetically engineered foods (**GEFs**) only voluntary. This does not protect my right-to-know or allow me consumer choice to protect my family and the environment. Voluntary labeling unfairly reverses the financial burden onto producers who do not use **GEFs**. Mandatory labeling is essential for the traceability of GEF products throughout the food supply for health professionals. Mandatory labeling also protects overseas markets for fanners. FDA must require **MANDATORY** labeling of **GEFs**.

FDA's proposed rule is unlikely to provide the public with adequate information on **GEFs** for independent review. The FDA notes that producers of **GEFs** may claim that any such information, including the pre-market notification, is a trade secret or confidential business information subject to exemption **from** public disclosure requirements. FDA must require full disclosure.

I will settle for nothing less than mandatory safety testing, labeling, pre-market environmental review, and full disclosure. All **GEFs** should be taken off supermarket shelves until these are established. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely yours,



Henry Peck

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