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FDA Commissioner  
Dockets Management Branch  
Food and Drug Administration  
Rockville, MD

Attn. Docket No. OON-1396 and OOD-1598,

Your agency's recently released "rules" for GM foods are entirely inadequate; they do not begin to address the potential hazards, both to human health and ecosystem integrity, that are unavoidable when tinkered-with organisms move beyond the laboratory. Adding insult to injury, you would not require these experimental foods to be labeled as such, forcing the public--without written consent--to participate in this dice-rolling misadventure. Agribusiness has obviously gotten, not just one, but both of your ears.

Thirty years ago, when I was working the harvest on a custom cutting crew, I would occasionally reach back into the grain bin of the combine and get a handful of wheat to chew on. Hard to believe now that I was so naive, what with pesticides etc; harder still to believe that we'll ever have any confidence in the safety of our food now that the FDA has shirked its responsibility.

If doing the right thing carries any weight, these proposed rules will be overhauled top to bottom so as to:

- (1) require thorough testing of any and all GM products, with an eye both to human health and the biological integrity of existing ecosystems;
- (2) require these products to be labeled, prominently, as GM, even when they are only one of many ingredients in a given item; and
- (3) make these requirements retroactive, since a variety of GM foodstuffs have already been released into the market and into the environment, without proper safeguards.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to comment; I'm hopeful that the FDA will return to its mandate of food safety, and abandon its detour into corporate public relations.

*If GM is an incorrect  
Acronym, please substitute GE.*

Yours,

*copy to: Jane Henney, Comm.*

*[Signature]*  
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