

Brendan J. Curtin
603 Spaulding Street
Elmira, New York 14904

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Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
5630 Fishers Lane
Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Food and Drug Administration:

You have proposed regulations that do not require genetically engineered food to be tested or labelled.

Other countries world wide require labelling. The idea of voluntary labelling leaves much to be desired. Many unlabelled foods will remain on grocery store shelves.

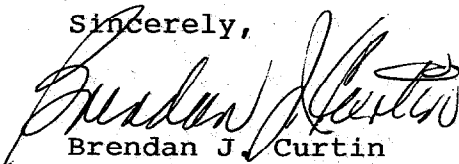
It is appalling that testing for safety, which is done in other countries, is not required to protect the American consumers.

I have a personal stake in this matter. My teenage son has a life threatening allergy to peanuts and nuts, as well as to foods that contain nuts, peanuts, or their products. He knows that he must be extremely cautious about everything he eats. He is astute at reading labels; he asks questions about food ingredients whenever he eats out. He always carries with himself a medical kit in case he inadvertently ingests some nut food, and he knows that, in such an instance, he must go immediately to a hospital emergency room or he will die.

Some foods are being genetically altered with nut and peanut elements, for example brazil nut genes in soybeans. Without mandatory labelling, my son could consume foods that would kill him, and he would have no information beforehand to protect himself. This is a nightmare scenario.

My family and I, and all Americans, have a right to safe food and to know what we are eating. Long term studies of the safety of altered foods must be undertaken before they are made available to the public. When they are made available, they must be accurately labelled as to their contents and to the sources of added genetic material.

Sincerely,


Brendan J. Curtin

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