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FDA Commissioner
Docket #00D-1598
FDA Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
5630 Fischers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear FDA Commissioner:

I sincerely hope that you nor anyone close to you ever contracts any sort of cancer. But, if you did, you might find yourselves doing what we and thousands of other Americans have done since having such a devastating occurrence in their lives. You might be asking yourself: "Why me?" Or: "Why has the rate of this cancer gone up so much in recent years; how can this be the case if cancer is a genetic trait?"

Some people don't ask these questions and are happy to put their lives and health in the hands of today's doctors. Others are more aggressive about continuing to live. What these people find out when they start their investigation is that cancer sometimes occurs when our immune system is weakened. Certainly, there are genetic and behavioral factors to the strength of our immune system. Since we can't do anything about the condition of our genetics, we then tend to focus on our behavior.

We soon discover, what is common knowledge among cancer victims but continues to be suppressed by industry, that pesticides, hormones, preservatives and antibiotics in our food-sources as well as pollution in our air and water are slowly but surely attacking our immune systems. Those of us with already compromised immune systems are merely the first to be affected, kind of like a miner's canary. The rest of us would be smart to take heed and not bet too heavily on the robustness of our own immune systems.

After discovering these well known, but largely denied, facts, the proactive cancer victim sets out to modify his/her behavior where possible. Some foods are removed from the diet and others added. Foods with pesticides, preservatives, hormones and antibiotics are no longer eaten and an interest in reducing human impact on our environment develops, less for ourselves but rather for our children and their children. For the first time in our lives, nothing is eaten without a thorough examination of its label.

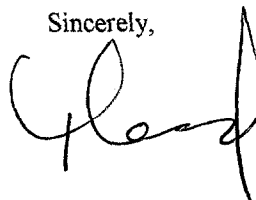
Then I read about the haphazard approach our government and industries are taking towards genetically modified foods. I am astounded and feel very threatened. The FDA, which is supposed to be looking out for the health of the food sources, has clearly been overly influenced by a money hungry industry. At the very least, foods containing GM must be labeled! Clearly, industry does not want this to happen because, firstly, they've already demonstrated that they cannot control GM food-streams and, secondly, that many people, including most Europeans and anyone concerned about their long-term health would not eat them. In short, it would be bad for business.

Although labeling these foods as containing GM food-sources should be a minimum expectation, clearly the concern does not stop there. Only when farmers are able to totally prevent crop contamination would I be comfortable. Of course, this is impossible. Furthermore, there is no way to completely predict the effect of adding plant species to our planet. History is full of examples of the devastation resulting from the introduction of previously non-existent plant and animal species to new lands. I see this as very similar.

The bottom line is that I care about my family's health and I care similarly about yours. GM foods should not be done and at a minimum, they must be labeled. That way, at least we have a control group in this experiment that we're embarking on.

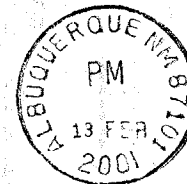
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Sincerely,



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