

Courtney Bolton
Washington University
65 15 Wydown Boulevard
Campus Box 4430
St. Louis MO 63105-2298
U.S.A.

March 10, 2001

3938 '01 MAR 16 AIO:38

Commissioner
Food And Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
5630 Fishers Lane
Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Commissioner,

As a United States citizen and University student, I write to inform you that I am extremely concerned that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has proposed regulations that still fail to require labels or safety tests on genetically engineered (GE) food. Labels on GE foods are required in Japan, Russia, and throughout Europe, yet your new proposal continues to deny Americans the right to know what is in our food.

Labels must be required to protect the public from potential health effects that could only be traced if GE foods can be identified, yet FDA's "voluntary labeling" guidelines will leave thousands of unlabeled GE foods on our supermarket shelves. Furthermore, the agency's proposed rule only requires companies to notify FDA when bringing GE foods to market, but it fails to require any safety testing. Doctors and scientists have warned about the potential for GE foods to trigger dangerous allergies, change the nutritional value of foods, and cause irreversible harm to the environment. FDA appears to be playing politics with our food, disregarding science-based precautions that other countries have implemented.

I urge you to reconsider this proposal and insure that GE foods are subject to pre-market testing and labeling. Americans deserve the same protections as the rest of the world.

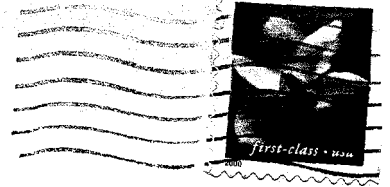
My concern for human rights is not politically motivated but in line with basic principles of international law.

Thanking you in advance for your time on this important and urgent matter, I am respectfully,

Courtney Bolton

DOD-3598

C 2669



Commissioner
Food & Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch HFA-
5630 Fishers Lane 305
Room 1061
Rockville MD 20852