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Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane Room 1061 (HFA-305)
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket No. 00N-1396, and 00D-1598

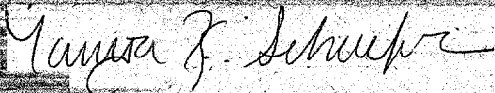
Dear FDA:

I strongly disagree with your new policies on genetically engineered (GE) foods. Despite overwhelming consumer demand and scientific evidence to the contrary, the FDA fails to require safety testing and mandatory labeling for GE-foods. Your "notification" policy irresponsibly ignores strong scientific evidence of numerous potential health and environmental risks in GE foods. You should know that these foods could be toxic, could cause allergic reactions, could have lower nutritional value, could compromise immune responses in consumers, and could cause irreparable damage to the environment.

I also oppose your new "voluntary labeling" policy, which denies consumers a basic right to know what is in the food they eat. Without mandatory labeling, neither consumers nor health professionals will know if an allergic or toxic reaction was the result of a genetically engineered food. Consumers will also be deprived of the critical knowledge they need to hold food producers liable should any of these novel foods prove hazardous.

The proposed rules ignore real and credible concerns, and appear to convenience industry at the expense of public health and the environment. I trust that you will reconsider the proposed rules.

Sincerely,



Tanya K. Schaefer

cc: Senator Ron Wyden
Senator Gordon Smith

00D-1598

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