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January 13, 2001

Docket No. OON-13% and Docket No. OOD-1598
FDA Commissioner, Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305) 0 3 4 8 '01 MAR -7 A 9 :50

Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Madam or Sir:

I am responsible for the well-being of two teenage sons. I absolutely refuse. permission for them to be used as guinea pigs in feeding experiments – especially experiments for which we are forced to pay to participate and which will serve only to increase the profits of a few corporations to the detriment of citizen farmers.

I am appalled with the United States of America's Food and Drug Administration dealing with tram-species genetically engineered organisms and the organizations which have sought approval for them. The FDA's New Rules announced on January 18, 2001, are simply irresponsible and quite nauseating. The New Rules bespeak an abysmal level of ecological literacy.

At a bare minimum, a responsible FDA must:

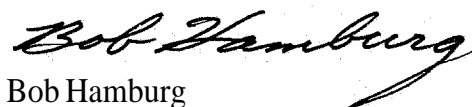
- * Require mandatory extensive pre-market safety testing by a range of testing organizations with no direct financial interest in the results;
- * Require mandatory extensive pre-market environmental review by a range of independent **organizations with** no direct financial interest in the results; and
- * Require mandatory and conspicuous labeling of genetically engineered foods! To go so far as to deny concerned citizens the right to label their own produce as GE Free must be unconstitutional.

A nuclear bomb is a self-limited event. It produces a certain "yield" and. that is that.. . except for the clean-up. Genetically engineered organisms are designed specifically to reproduce themselves *ad infinitum* and will naturally combine with other natural and genetically engineered organisms. There is a huge qualitative difference between the interchange of plant and animal characteristics through **intra-species** breeding. and genetic-engineering's inter-kingdom manipulation.

I really don't **care what** you and your families and Monsanto employees eat. However, as an American citizen, I demand the right to make my own choice as to what my children are eating. The New Rules need to be almost totally reworked.

Thank you for your time and attention. I look forward to seeing FDA's activities in support of the general welfare of the people of the United States as opposed to the increased profit for a couple insatiable corporations;

Sincerely,


Bob Hamburg

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