

February 26, 2001

Dear FDA,

I would like to comment on your proposed rules regulating genetically engineered foods. Your proposed rules are weak, make no real progress on assuring consumers of the safety of their food supply, and are basically useless. GE foods are not substantially equivalent to regular food, have many health and environmental risks which have caused a public outcry already, have caused numerous other nations (where agribusiness corporations hold less sway) to label, ban, and test GE foods, and your own ~~scientists~~ and advisors have recommended more stringent regulations on GE foods.

It's a shame that with all of the information out there pointing to a more cautious and regulated approach to GE food (British Medical Association, Center for Food Safety, ...) that you all came up with such lax rules. GE foods are not safe for us or the environment, and they have not been shown to be healthier, harder, or to

reduce pesticide use. Those facts were changed by the fact that agribusiness spends billions on advertising, lobbying & research.

The FDA needs to get its act together, respond to the public, not corporate lobbying, and make substantive rules that:

- 1) require the labeling of all food with GE ingredients
- 2) not allow GE seed to be planted or food on the shelf until thorough testing has been carried out
- 3) ban certain GE crops that pose significant risk to our health or the environment
- 4) ban the use of antibiotic resistance marker genes in genetic engineering

Thank you for the chance to comment. I trust that the FDA will make sound decisions that protect the health of all food-eating Americans.

Sincerely,

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