442 N. 6th St.
Mankato, Mn. 56001
March 5, 2001

RE: Docket No. 00N-1396
2nd Docket No. 00D-1598

1587 '01 MAR -9 A10:47

FDA Commissioner
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Md. 20852

Dear FDA Docket Manager:

In my mind, the new FDA rules that were announced on Jan 18, 2001 are lacking in some areas. I am going to list some of the things that I think need to be done to be fair to American consumers.

1) There must be mandatory pre-market safety testing. There is no proof that genetically engineered (GE) foods will not be toxic, especially after a long time of ingesting them. They could also cause allergic responses and they might have lower nutritional values. These things should not be tested on the American public.

2) The GE crops have not been around long enough to find out if they are harmful to the environment. Therefore there must be mandatory pre-market environmental review

3) The FDA must require mandatory labeling of GE foods. I, as a consumer, and many others I know want to know if we are purchasing

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GE foods. It seems scientifically unsound and even illogical not to label them. If a person has an allergic or toxic reaction to a GE food, how would that person or a health professional know that it may be due to a genetically engineered food?

As a consumer I consider the non-labeling an insult. I want to be able to choose whether or not to purchase these food. I know there are already many GE foods in the stores unlabeled. This needs to change.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Joan Schmitz