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March 5, 2001

FDA Commissioner  
Docket No. 00N-1396/00D-1598  
FDA Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear FDA Commissioner,

I am writing to express my opinion regarding genetically engineered food. I believe that all genetically engineered foods and food ingredients should be labeled so the public is informed and has a choice. Genetically engineered food should not be assumed to be safe and should be subject to mandatory pre-market testing. There should be a moratorium on genetically engineered foods until long-term studies show that they are safe for human health and the environment. Too often, food products deemed safe have, in fact, been determined to cause health problems in humans. An example of this is the new scientific evidence of the adverse effects on humans in connection with the consumption of hydrogenated oils. The public relies heavily on the FDA to make certain that foods and drugs are fit for human consumption. Please take the time to do extensive testing before releasing genetically engineered foods to the general public.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Mary Lou Splain  
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Middlebury, VT 05753

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