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March 5, 2001

FDA Commissioner
Docket No. OON-1396/OOD-1598
FDA Documents Management Branch
Food & Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane Room 1061
Rockville, MD 2085

Dear Commissioner,

The FDA's new proposed rules and guidance on genetically engineered foods are totally inadequate to protect consumers and the environment; they should be removed from the shelves of markets until they have been safety tested and labeled.

As a molecular biologist who has worked with DNA, I am deeply concerned about the potential health and environmental risks of genetically engineered foods, which could be toxic to consumers. These biotech foods grown from seeds bred to be resistant to herbicides, pesticides, plant diseases, or insects have not been tested; their effects on the environment and on humans are not known. European countries are aware of these dangers and have wisely refused to import genetically engineered crops.

The FDA, charged with the safety of foods sold to the public, has an ethical responsibility to require mandatory labeling so consumers will be able to make informed choices. I urge you to require that labeling, and also to require long-term testing of foods containing genetically modified organisms, and to prohibit their sale until—and only if—such studies prove them to be safe.

Sincerely,

D. E. Lane

D. E. Lane

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