

SCIENTISTS' PETITION

FDA APPROVAL OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOODS

Foods containing ingredients made from GE crops appear to be safe to consumers and can make important contributions to agriculture and the environment. However, the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) current "notification" process will not adequately assure the safety of future GE foods. The FDA acknowledges that it "...does not conduct a comprehensive scientific review of data generated by the developer." That contrasts with *mandatory* safety approval of GE crops at the Environmental Protection Agency, GE food animals at FDA, and food additives at FDA. The FDA has proposed a mandatory notification process but that still would not result in an FDA determination of safety.

Congress needs to mandate a formal FDA safety-approval process for GE foods. Such an approval process would contribute to consumer confidence and facilitate the safe use of biotechnology. That approval process should be open to public input, conducted in a timely fashion, and be uniquely adapted to the characteristics of GE foods.

Signed

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