

Good morning Chairman Roy and members of the environmental committee. I'm here to testify in favor of bill # HB 5117, an act that mandates labeling of genetically modified foods.

My name is Beth Beisel and I am a registered dietitian. I have spent half of my life helping and teaching people to make healthy food and lifestyle choices.

(Added on 2/25/12 – here are 2 simplistic explanations of what happens when a food is genetically modified: 1) A seed is injected with a RESISTANT bacteria, and that bacterial resistance grows into every cell of the plant. Then the farmer can spray massive amounts of pesticides on the plants, and they will “resist” the pesticide. Meanwhile, all the weeds around it will be killed by the pesticide. 2) A toxin is injected into the seed, and that toxin grows into every cell in the plant. This toxin kills the bugs that eat the plant; it does not kill humans – at least not instantly – but what does it do to them in the long run? And how will it ever be proven?)

On Friday, March second, from noon to one, Jeffrey Smith from the Institute for Responsible Technology is coming to speak to you about the dangers of ingesting genetically modified foods and the massive amounts of pesticides that they contain – and your lives will be changed forever after you hear his presentation.

I know one of the lobbyists that spoke against your bill today, and I also know for a fact that his family eats NOTHING but organic, non GMO- food. This is important for you to remember...

When he sat here and told you how important GMOs and biotechnology are to the economy, and that there's no need to label GMO foods, because they are “nutritionally equivalent” and that their safety has been studied extensively- remember that he's going home to a completely organic meal; he won't let HIS loved ones eat them.....Absence of proof is not proof of absence, and he clearly knows this!

Please, consider that this act, which will mandate GMO labeling, will make Connecticut a leader in changing the course of history. Please consider the health of your constituents and the health of the American people. (GMO's are banned in many other countries by the way...here we are just asking for the **right to know** when we are eating them.)

Most people don't know that citric acid, maltodextrine or baking soda, found in many simple foods like crackers, are derivatives of GMO corn. They have been falsely informed for more that twenty years that margarine – made from GMO corn, GMO soy, GMO canola, and GMO cottonseed oil is a heart healthy choice! IT needs to be labeled, so that people can have the information they need to make their own free choices. Even if people memorize all the derivatives of corn such as those mentioned above, something as simple as “sugar” on a label, can be GMO. (Recently sugar beets, used to make sugar,

were approved by the USDA to be genetically modified. It's still labeled as sugar – we just don't know what kind!) Every time a child eats a lollipop or a piece of chocolate, he is exposed to GMOs! Formula, used to feed newborn infants, is made largely from GM corn and soy derivatives. So often, the first food a child eats isn't even real food...

Please, when you consider this act, think about your children who might have infertility from eating these foods. Consider your grandchildren who might develop life threatening peanut or other food allergies, from ingesting these foods.

All we're asking for is disclosure here – honesty – it's time to give your constituents the freedom and knowledge to make their own informed choices.

Thank you very much for sponsoring this act, and starting the process of bringing this topic before the people of CT.