

Hello.

My name is Randel A Agrella. I reside in Wethersfield, where I am currently managing Comstock, Ferre and Company seed house, which has been in operation for over 200 years. We currently sell exclusively open-pollinated, public-domain seeds, and ship them throughout North America, as well as operating our retail store at 263 Main Street in Wethersfield.

I am writing informally to voice my support, and that of my company, of mandatory labeling of food products to reflect the presence of GMO (genetically modified organisms) content in all foods to be sold in the state of Connecticut.

In recent years, GMO crops have proliferated, driven by aggressive marketing strategies by patent-holders on these varieties. It is my belief that, not only are these products NOT proven to be safe for human consumption, but that there is mounting evidence that these products, or at least some of them, are manifestly UNSAFE.

Further, I believe that the preponderance of public opinion is that these products may well be unsafe. I believe that, given the choice that proper labeling would provide, many individuals would opt not to purchase products with GMO content. The proponents of GMO crops, knowing this, have resisted all attempts by the public to secure legislation requiring disclosure of GMO content in foods and other products.

There are plenty of other problems with the increasing use of GMO crops, such as bioethical and environmental concerns. But, whatever the final disposition on those matters, one thing is clear: the public has, or ought to have, an explicit RIGHT TO KNOW of the presence of GMO ingredients in the foods they are consuming.

Thank you.