

RE: H.B. 6519 - An Act Concerning The Labeling of Genetically Engineered Food

Greeting to the Public Health Committee co-chairs Senator Gerratana and Representative Johnson, and to everyone else.

I am writing in support of H.B. 6519 that will require the labeling of food products that contain genetically engineered foods. I have been very concerned about the quality and healthfulness of the foods marketed to the U.S. population for many years. In particular, in the past year I have learned about the critical threats posed by genetic modification of key crops such as corn and soy and, more significantly, by the near total lack of adequate testing of those products by the FDA before it approves them for public consumption. I believe the evidence is overwhelming that the FDA is not going to protect us, and so we must be able to protect ourselves and our families. This will require labeling of foods that contain genetically engineered ingredients.

One common argument from the opponents of mandatory labeling is that our fears are baseless, with no science to back them up. My response to that is to point out that the duty to prove safety rests squarely on the FDA. By allowing inadequate "testimony" from the biotech industry that all is well, the FDA is the one that should stand accused of having no science to back up its position. Many, many scientists have stated that the "testing" performed by Monsanto and others was AT BEST totally inadequate and more likely misleading or even dishonest. In additionn there is a huge and growing body of evidence from people from all walks of life that consumption of genetically modified foods are creating huge health problems. WE the people do not have to prove the dangers of what they are making for us to eat - THEY need to prove the safety before it hits the shelves of our grocery stores. Until they can do so in a scientifically reliable and recognized manner, we need labeling so we can make healthy and even life-saving choices.

I urge all Connecticut legislators and the Governor to support this bill to protect Connecticut families.

Sincerely,

Nancy Bowden
Bloomfield CT