

FOSTER HB 6519

To the members of the Public Health Committee:

My name is Chantal Foster, I live in Portland, CT and am submitting this testimony because I feel it is important for people to know if the food they are consuming has been genetically modified. I am not a scientist or a doctor or a specialist in diet or the environment. I speak simply as a mother of two growing boys and feel it is my responsibility to do what is best for my kids -- and the food they eat is of utmost importance.

I found out about GMO foods 6 years ago, they had been in our food system for over 10 years at that point -- imagine my surprise! The more I learned about them, the more I wanted to avoid them -- again, speaking as a mom, I don't think it is wise to feed children (or adults!) food that can produce a toxin or be doused with an herbicide -- it just doesn't sound like a good idea -- to me, anyway. But again, I'm not a scientist, just a mom.

Interestingly enough, once I learned more about GMOs and started talking to others about them, I was surprised to find out that so many people had (and still have) NO IDEA what GMOs are! Even more interesting, when they hear what they are, how they are created and what they do, they are also very interested in avoiding them. In fact, it should be no surprise to the committee that most of the consumers in this state would WANT to know if GMOs are in the foods they are eating.

Based on what I have learned and experienced in discussing this issue with others, I see labeling of GMOs as a great service to the public -- something they want AND can benefit from since it would allow people to make their own choices about GMOs and also get people thinking more about what is in the food they are eating -- something we all can benefit from. It seems clear the only reason we would not end up with GMO labeling is because of big company interests, and that would be a shame to put those interests ahead of the people of this fine state. Let's do the right thing.

Respectfully,
Chantal Foster, Mom