



**Written Testimony of Abraham Scarr, Director
Connecticut Public Interest Research Group (ConnPIRG)
in support of**

Raised Bill No. 6519: An Act Concerning the Labeling of Genetically Modified Food in the State

Chairperson Johnson, Chairperson Gerratana and Members of the Committee: My name is Abe Scarr and I am the Director of the Connecticut Public Interest Research Group (ConnPIRG). Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony today in support of Raised Bill No. 6519: An Act Concerning the Labeling of Genetically Modified Food in the State.

ConnPIRG strongly supports Raised Bill 6519 and urges the committee to issue a joint favorable recommendation.

Consumers have the right to make informed choices about their food. This is not only a commonsense principle, but one with overwhelming public support. Poll after poll finds 90% plus public support for the labeling of genetically engineered foods.

There are many reasons why consumers might be concerned about genetically engineered foods, including the injection of pesticides into the genome of crops, and the uncertainty about their long term public health impacts. Without knowing, consumers in Connecticut regularly consume food that contains genetically-engineered ingredients. Food labels already list calories, fat, allergy information and ingredients. This law ensures consumers can identify whether the food has been genetically engineered or not.

Forty-nine countries already require labeling of genetically engineered foods, including all of Europe, Japan, India and China. Raised Bill 6519 would make Connecticut the first state in the United States to require labeling.

The General Assembly should put the rights and interests of Connecticut consumers ahead of the interests of the large agri-businesses that want to keep consumers in the dark.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony and please contact me if you have any questions.

Abe Scarr
860-983-4473
abe@connpirg.org