

March 15, 2013

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF CT HB 6519, An Act Concerning The Labeling of Genetically Engineered Food**

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**My name is Elaine Titus. I am a holistic health counselor with a degree from the Institute for Integrative Nutrition in New York City. I also hold a master's degree in Marketing from New York University and an undergraduate degree from Babson College. I became aware of GMO's about a year ago when my two daughters began to develop food allergies. After researching GMO's and their health risks, we eliminated GMO's from our diets and my daughter's allergies and digestive issues improved. I wanted to share my knowledge about GMO's with others so I joined the board of GMO Free CT, a grassroots organization dedicated to education and labeling of genetically engineered foods.**

**I am requesting that you pass HB 6519 to label genetically engineered food. I am concerned about GMO's and feeding them to myself and my family. There are potential health risks associated with eating GMO foods which are created by taking the DNA from one species and injecting it into the DNA of a completely different species. This would never, ever happen in nature.**

**These foods have not been shown to be safe. Even the FDA's own scientists have said these products were not proven to be safe and should be tested further, including human studies. According to one of the only long term studies ever conducted on genetically modified maize by Gilles-Eric Seralini, et al, the rats studied had increased mortality, breast cancer, tumors, liver and kidney damage. Most studies on GMO's are short term, 60-90 days, and are funded by the biotech industry. Many of these do not assess the proper parameters to actually evaluate safety instead they assess animal production of yield, growth, organ weight, and quality. In a review of 60 abstracts on the safety of GMO's, epidemiologist, Judy Carman concluded that "The list of abstracts therefore does not support claims that GM crops are safe to eat. On the contrary, it provides evidence that GM crops may be harmful to health." I myself have reviewed a recent abstract of 24 studies by Snell, et al 2011ii which did not support the claim either that GMO's were safe even though the abstract concluded that GM plants are nutritionally equivalent to their non-GM counterparts and can be safely used in food and feed. That conclusion just doesn't make sense according to the actual research. As Jeffrey Smith stated, "They've got "bad science" down to a science".**

**I don't want to take the chance. Do you? I want to know what I am eating, I want these products labeled so that I can make an informed choice for myself and my family. We cannot rely on the FDA which doesn't require safety testing and is essentially run by former biotech executives and lobbyists. They put the responsibility on the manufacturer to determine if they are safe and don't require labeling. We as citizens of Connecticut have the right to know what we are feeding our families. All we are asking for is a simple label. We have the right to know what we are putting into our bodies. Thank you for your time and consideration of this issue. Please support HB 6519 and label genetically engineered foods.**

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**i <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0278691512005637#>**

**ii <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0278691511006399>**