

Subject: My Written Testimony for Bill 6519

With FDA and Congress failing to protect citizens from the relentless rollout of genetically engineered foods and food ingredients, the Connecticut legislature must step up to the plate, pass Bill #6519 requiring labeling of genetically engineered foods, and be amongst the first in the nation to protect its citizens, farmers, and food supply from the risks and dangers of GMOs. We have a healthy growing CSA program and our organic farmers can continue a unique niche of providing nutritious food throughout the state (if GMO pollen doesn't taint and pollute their crops!)

False promises, escalating farmer and food costs, increased health risks from more pesticides, and worse, from the unstable GE process - viruses used as gene trait insertion catalysts, antibiotics as genetic markers, and new GE bacterial pesticides built into the seed, the effects of which have been demonstrated by independent scientists and chemical companies' own studies, to have created new allergenic entities and other health compromising impacts (reproductive, cancer, autoimmune disorders). The informed consumer is rightfully entitled to labeling to have the right to choose, now! Deceptive advertising practices and hidden GMO food ingredients should simply not be allowed!

In short, herbicide resistant GMO crops are committing us to an endless chemical treadmill and a flawed food cost production model. The unstable genetic engineering process is opening the GMO Pandora's Box to a multitude of demonstrated known and unknown harms. The federal government did not listen to its own FDA scientists' warnings on this. Connecticut must do better for the sake of health and health care cost containment, as well as to support our hardworking growing organic farming and CSA movement to secure a healthy food supply. The time for this vitally important action is now!

Enough of hidden ingredients – Just Label It!

Respectfully submitted,

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