

This is testimony for H.B. 6519 for the Public Hearing on March 15th, 2013.

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"The The FDA's regulation of pet food is similar to that for other animal foods. The Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) requires that all animal foods, like human foods, be safe to eat, produced under sanitary conditions, contain no harmful substances, and be truthfully labeled."
<http://www.fda.gov/animalveterinary/products/animalfoodfeeds/petfood/default.htm>

The label on my can of vegetable soup reads like a novel: serving size, total fat %, grams of sugars, sodium %, protein content, "contains milk", "this soup has been processed in a plant that processes tree nuts". All this plus an extensive ingredient list! I can find out if there are preservatives in my soup if I spend the time reading the label.

But perhaps our government hasn't been truthful about a most important *thing*? Where are the ingredients listed as GMO corn, GMO soy, GMO sugar? How about GMO canola? Approximately 90 % of all canola oil is GMO. And the American Heart Association has stated that canola oil is "heart healthy". Which canola oil they are referring to?

Many countries grow GMO foods or import them but they require mandatory GMO food labeling, giving their citizens the information they need to make informed decisions. Currently American products sold in the EU countries are labeled if GMO; they have to comply because it's the law there. These same foods produced by companies in the U.S. should be required by law to label GMO foods so that consumers here in the United States can also make informed food choices. Why is it that the European Union, Brazil, China, Australia, Russia and Japan all have mandatory GMO food labeling and the United States does not?

Labeling will provide us the tools to make choices we deem as reasonable for our health. The production of GMO foods started in the 1990s and there has not been enough long-term study of them to warrant them as fully safe for human and animal consumption. Some countries, like Peru, have even banned GMO foods. France and Russia currently have bans on Monsanto's GMO corn. GMO Food engineering is new technology and it would make sense to move slowly and carefully with it. It is simply common sense that consumers want to know what is in our food.

GMO technology is different from traditional hybridization and cross-breeding technologies. GMO foods contain DNA that is altered with genes from other plants, animals, viruses or bacteria. In addition, many of the GMO crops are formulated so they can be heavily sprayed with pesticides which, in turn, wreak havoc with our larger environment. Polls show that most citizens of the United States favor mandatory GMO labeling. We live in a democracy and we have a right to know what is in our food.

Don't you think your can of soup should label any ingredients that contain GMOs? Support the bill for mandatory GMO labeling in the State of Connecticut.