

Kelly Maria

From: John Schmidt <john@organicandhealthy.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2013 10:45 AM
To: Kelly Maria
Subject: Support for HB 2175 and HB 2532 - Please submit as testimony for public hearing

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

HB 2175 and/or HB 2532 should become law so Oregon can join more than 50 countries worldwide, including the European Union, Japan, China, Russia, and New Zealand, that mandate labels identifying genetically modified food. We deserve to know if we are eating GMOs and feeding them to our children!

Before the FDA decided to allow GMOs in food without labeling, their own scientists repeatedly warned that these foods can create unpredictable, hard-to-detect side effects, including allergies, toxins, new diseases, and nutritional problems. The scientists urged long-term safety studies, but they were ignored. Since then, findings include:

- Thousands of sheep, buffalo, and goats in India died after grazing on Bt cotton plants.
- Mice fed GM corn had fewer and smaller babies.
- More than half the babies of mother rats fed GM soy died within three weeks.
- Testicle cells of mice and rats fed GM soy changed significantly.
- By the third generation, most GM soy-fed hamsters lost the ability to have babies.
- Rodents fed GM corn and soy showed immune system responses and signs of toxicity.
- Cooked GM soy contains as much as 7-times the amount of a known soy allergen. In fact, soy allergies skyrocketed by 50% in the UK soon after GM soy was introduced.
- The stomach lining of rats fed GM potatoes showed excessive cell growth, a condition that may lead to cancer.
- Other animal studies showed organ lesions, altered liver and pancreas cells, changed enzyme levels and other physical changes.

Unlike safety evaluations for drugs, there are no human clinical trials of GM foods. The only published human feeding experiment revealed that the genetic material inserted into GM soy transfers into bacteria living inside our intestines and continues to function. This means that long after we stop eating GM foods, we may still have their GM proteins produced continuously inside us. This could mean:

- If the antibiotic gene inserted into most GM crops were to transfer, it could create super diseases, resistant to antibiotics
- If the gene that creates Bt-toxin in GM corn were to transfer, it might turn our intestinal bacteria into living pesticide factories.

Although no studies have evaluated if antibiotic or Bt-toxin genes transfer, that is one of the key problems. The safety assessments are too superficial to even identify most of the potential dangers from GMOs.

Please support the labeling of our foods by passing HB 2175 and HB 2532. Oregon families should not be guinea pigs for the biotech industry!

Sincerely,

John Schmidt

Ashland, OR

