

Testimony on GM Food Legislation, H.B. 2532: Makes foods that contain or are produced using genetically engineered material subject to labeling requirements

I am in favor of this bill passing and labeling all GM foods

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The Problem

Please label genetically modified (GM) food as consumers wish? The only folks who *don't* want us to know what's in our food are huge corporations like Monsanto, Dow AgriScience, BASF and food conglomerates like Pepsi and Coca-Cola - who along with other biotech, pesticide and processed food manufacturers who donated nearly \$33 million to defeat Prop 37 (labeling initiative) in California.

Consumers want to be able to make informed choices. Many consumers such as myself wish to avoid food products that contain GM ingredients and this is why food manufacturers like to position themselves as GM free. However consumers can't rely on the statements made in advertising as there is no regulation or laws requiring labeling of GM food.

As a physician I have to tell my patients to eat only organic food since they have no way to know if conventional food is GM or not. Some of my patients would prefer to eat conventional food if GM food was labeled. They do not have this choice.

Because consumer's wishes are going unheard by their representatives, a business called "Non GMO Project" arose as a third party verification system in the United States. They test and label products free of genetic modification and now even restaurants are given verification by this group to prove they do not sell GM food in their restaurant. The Non GMO Project has grown so fast and gained so many new members recently due to governmental representatives not recognizing that their constituents want GM food labeled or simply not taking action. This is one more additional thing these non-GMO companies now have to

pay for because GM food suppliers do not have to make a simple labeling addition to claim the GM contents of their product.

Why do consumers such as myself want labeling of their food and their animal's food to state if it contains GM food?

The U.S. government has never researched the safety of GM food at all! This is an issue for consumers. The FDA claims GM food is "substantially equivalent" to its conventional food counterpart when it comes to research or labeling, but apparently GM food is substantially different when the companies get these foods patented. According to the FDA GM food does not need testing due to this substantial equivalence. Our government leaves it up to the companies supplying the GM food to do the research. However, these companies have no incentive to do the proper long term research needed. (For example they should do two-year research with mice as this is their life span. Easy to do, but they do only 3 months.) The amount of research these companies provides is underwhelming in length of research time as well as number of experiments undertaken. Therefore these experiments do not pick up chronic disease, infertility, tumors etc that has been shown in research from other countries than the United States. Research by non-GM companies, has shown GM food fed to animals leads to problems in growth, reproduction, and mortality rate. Specifically, when GM fed animals are compared to controls, the GM fed animals have decreased mortality amongst babies, smaller babies, growth of hair inside animals mouths, changes in testes, including damage to sperm cells, damage to the kidney and the liver, tumors in various organs, extreme changes in androgen/estrogen balance in females and extremely increased estrogen levels in males. I have listed abstracts of various research articles for you to review and links to read the entire articles when they are available on-line for free. I suggest you do read the entire articles as they will educate you as to the problem. I would collect more articles for you if am given the time. The deadline to turn this testimony in, is today and I have to give you what I have so far. Let me know if you wish to see more.

Let me be very clear. This research on animals is from other countries as our country has decided we do not need to research GM food. There is no short term or long term research on humans other than that which is being undertaken on the consumers in the United States without their consent.

Don't wait for the consumers in the United States to decide to sue the government in a class action law suit for making them part of an ongoing experiment without their consent. Let the consumers opt out of being unwilling subjects by providing labels on food to identify GM organisms in all food on the market be it human or animal food.