

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

HB 2175 and HB 2532 address needed food labeling requirements that 50 countries worldwide, including Japan, China, Russia, and New Zealand provide their citizens. The FDA has no such requirements. Oregon consumers deserve no less. As shocking as this may seem, the FDA nor biotech companies have never tested genetically engineered foods for short or long term safety in vulnerable populations such as children or the elderly. Oregon consumers had to educate themselves about milk from the genetically engineered rGBH-treated cows. Milk from these cows contains high levels of a natural growth factor (IGF-1), which is linked to the development of breast, prostate, and colon cancers.

Genetically engineered crops are generally engineered to withstand much heavier-than-normal pesticide application; by consuming them, you also consume pesticide residues. Pesticides have been linked to numerous health problems including blood, kidney and liver toxicity, birth defects, and even cancer. Children are particularly vulnerable to the toxic effects of pesticides.

Finally, genetically engineered foods have not undergone any government-mandated, independent, peer-reviewed scientific testing, and there is no post-marketing surveillance system to detect acute or chronic effects of foods containing genetically engineered ingredients in sensitive or vulnerable populations.

Please support the labeling of our foods by passing HB 2175 and HB 2532.

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