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SENATE MEMORIAL 62

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Cisco McSorley

A MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO ASSIGN TO THE
APPROPRIATE INTERIM LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE A STUDY OF THE
FEASIBILITY AND EFFECTS OF REQUIRING LABELING OF FOOD
CONTAINING GENETICALLY ENGINEERED AND GENETICALLY MODIFIED
INGREDIENTS.**

**WHEREAS, the United States food and drug administration
does not require genetically engineered foods to be safety-
tested prior to the sale of those foods for human consumption;
and**

**WHEREAS, polls consistently indicate that over eighty
percent of Americans want genetically engineered foods to be
labeled; and**

**WHEREAS, citizens in Japan, China, Australia, New Zealand,
the fifteen European union nations and several other countries**

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1 require labeling of genetically engineered foods; and

2 WHEREAS, scientists throughout the world warn of potential
3 allergic reactions from the consumption of novel proteins in
4 foods modified by genetic engineering; and

5 WHEREAS, genetically engineered foods contain antibiotic-
6 resistant marker genes that could cause antibiotic resistance
7 in humans; and

8 WHEREAS, genetically engineered foods often contain built-
9 in pesticides lethal enough to kill insects eating the same
10 crops being consumed by humans; and

11 WHEREAS, herbicide-resistant genetically engineered crops
12 crossbreed with weeds, creating superweeds; and

13 WHEREAS, organically grown crops are being contaminated by
14 cross-pollination from genetically engineered crops; and

15 WHEREAS, not enough research has been conducted to ensure
16 the safety of genetically engineered foods;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
18 OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council be
19 requested to assign to the appropriate interim legislative
20 committee a study of the feasibility and effects of requiring
21 labeling of food containing genetically engineered and
22 genetically modified ingredients; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appropriate interim
24 legislative committee seek the advice and cooperation of the
25 department of health, the department of environment and the New

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1 Mexico department of agriculture; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study be completed by
3 December 31, 2003; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
5 transmitted to the New Mexico legislative council, the
6 secretary of health, the secretary of environment and the
7 director of the New Mexico department of agriculture.

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