

HOUSE BILL JOINT RESOLUTION NO. HJ0001

Labeling for genetically engineered items.

Sponsored by: Joint Agriculture, State and Public Lands & Water Resources Interim Committee

A JOINT RESOLUTION

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION requesting Congress to enact legislation  
2 reaffirming the United States Food and Drug Administration  
3 as the primary authority in uniform food labeling related  
4 to genetic engineering.

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6 WHEREAS, for the purposes of this resolution the term  
7 "genetically engineered" is intended to include the terms  
8 "biogenetic organism" and "genetically modified organism";  
9 and

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11 WHEREAS, foods produced with genetically engineered  
12 ingredients are as safe to eat and grow as foods produced  
13 without genetically engineered ingredients as found by many  
14 of the most influential regulatory agencies and  
15 organizations in the world that study the safety of food  
16 products, including the United States Food and Drug

1 Administration, the American Medical Association, the World  
2 Health Organization, Health Canada, the United States  
3 Department of Agriculture, the National Academy of  
4 Sciences, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization  
5 and the European Food Safety Authority; and

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7 WHEREAS, genetically engineered technology provides  
8 desirable traits from nature and establishes the potential  
9 for nutritional, health, agronomic and environmental  
10 benefits; and

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12 WHEREAS, genetic modification of crops has existed since  
13 man began cultivating crops and genetically engineered  
14 technology has been safely used to produce food products  
15 for the past twenty-five (25) years; and

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17 WHEREAS, approximately seventy percent (70%) to eighty  
18 percent (80%) of the foods consumed in the United States,  
19 both at home and away from home, contain genetically  
20 engineered ingredients or are genetically engineered as a  
21 whole product; and

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1 WHEREAS, a patchwork of local and state mandatory labeling  
2 laws and regulations will force costly changes to  
3 manufacturing, labeling, warehousing, inventory and  
4 distribution channels. Manufacturers and retailers will  
5 have to make immediate and consequential changes to their  
6 businesses to comply with new labeling requirements.  
7 Testing to determine if products are exempt, relabeling or  
8 reformulating products with specifically handled, higher-  
9 priced ingredients and maintaining separate production  
10 runs, state specific tracking units, segregated  
11 warehousing, trucking and other logistical complexities  
12 will result in higher food prices; and

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14 WHEREAS, a national solution is needed that will protect  
15 consumers by eliminating confusion, advancing food safety  
16 and providing for the free trade of commerce among the  
17 states; and

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19 WHEREAS, a national solution will eliminate the confusion  
20 and uncertainty of a fifty (50) state patchwork of  
21 genetically engineered safety and labeling laws and affirm  
22 the Food and Drug Administration as the nation's authority

1 for the use and labeling of genetically modified foods and  
2 food ingredients; and

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4 WHEREAS, a national solution will require the Food and Drug  
5 Administration to conduct a safety review of all new  
6 genetically engineered ingredients before they are  
7 introduced into commerce. The Food and Drug Administration  
8 will be required to mandate the labeling of genetically  
9 engineered food ingredients if the agency determines there  
10 is a health, safety or nutrition issue with the genetically  
11 engineered ingredient; and

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13 WHEREAS, a national solution will inform consumers through  
14 federal standards established by the Food and Drug  
15 Administration for companies that choose to voluntarily  
16 label their products for the absence or presence of  
17 genetically engineered food ingredients so that consumers  
18 clearly understand their choices in the marketplace; and

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20 WHEREAS, a national solution will provide consistency in  
21 that the Food and Drug Administration will define the term  
22 "natural" for its use on food and beverage products so that  
23 food and beverage companies and consumers have a consistent

1 legal framework that will guide food labels and inform  
2 consumer choice.

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4 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE*  
5 *LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:*

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7       **Section 1.** That Congress of the United States enact  
8 bipartisan legislation that reaffirms the Food and Drug  
9 Administration as the primary authority in uniform food  
10 labeling related to genetic engineering, based on  
11 scientific standards regarding health, safety and  
12 nutrition.

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14       **Section 2.** That existing Food and Drug Administration  
15 labeling rules and guidance, as well as the United States  
16 Department of Agriculture's National Organic Program,  
17 provide sufficient standards to address consumer interest  
18 in food production practices through the use of truthful  
19 and nonmisleading voluntary labeling.

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21       **Section 3.** That the Commissioner of the Food and Drug  
22 Administration adopt policies, regulations and rules

1 setting standards to address consumer interest in food  
2 production practices through voluntary labeling.

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4       **Section 4.** That the Wyoming Secretary of State  
5 transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the  
6 United States, to the President of the Senate and the  
7 Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United  
8 States Congress, to the Wyoming Congressional Delegation  
9 and to the Commissioner of the Food and Drug  
10 Administration.

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