

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. SJ0004

Labeling for genetically engineered items-2.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Emerich, Driskill, Geis and Hicks

A JOINT RESOLUTION

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION requesting Congress to enact legislation  
2 providing uniform food labeling related to genetic  
3 engineering.

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

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

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

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6 WHEREAS, genetically engineered plants and animals provide  
7 desirable traits from nature and establish the potential  
8 for nutritional, health, agronomic and environmental  
9 benefits; and

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11 WHEREAS, genetic modification of crops has existed since  
12 man began cultivating crops and genetically engineered  
13 technology has been safely used to produce food products  
14 for the past twenty (20) years; and

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

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22 WHEREAS, a patchwork of local and state mandatory labeling  
23 laws and regulations will force costly changes to

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

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12 WHEREAS, a national labeling solution is needed that will  
13 protect consumers by eliminating confusion and providing  
14 for the free trade of commerce among the states; and

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16 WHEREAS, a national solution will eliminate the confusion  
17 and uncertainty of a fifty (50) state patchwork of  
18 genetically engineered safety and labeling laws; and

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20 WHEREAS, a national solution will inform consumers through  
21 federal standards. Companies may choose to voluntarily  
22 label their products for the absence or presence of

1 genetically engineered food ingredients so that consumers  
2 clearly understand their choices in the marketplace.

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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 provides for food labeling  
9 based on scientific standards regarding health, safety and  
10 nutrition.

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12       **Section 2.** That Congress provide sufficient standards  
13 to address consumer interest in food production practices  
14 through the use of truthful and nonmisleading voluntary  
15 labeling.

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1           **Section 3.** That the Wyoming Secretary of State  
2 transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the  
3 United States, to the President of the Senate and the  
4 Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United  
5 States Congress and to the Wyoming Congressional  
6 Delegation.

7

8

(END)