

January 26, 20015

Adrianna Simonelli  
Legislative Clerk  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ms. Simonelli:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to Mr. Griffith's Question for the Record on H.R. 4432.

Consumers simply want the right to know about the presence of genetically modified food ingredients in their food. What's more, misleading claims have led to many consumers to incorrectly believe that "natural" foods are GMO free.

Rather than require a simple disclosure regarding the presence of genetically modified food ingredients and prohibit "natural" claims on such foods, H.R. 4432 would keep consumers in the dark by preempting state GMO labeling laws, narrowing FDA's authority to craft a *mandatory* GMO labeling solution, and by codifying the current *voluntary* GMO labeling system that has fueled consumer confusion.

Instead, Congress should prohibit the use of "natural" claims on foods with genetically modified food ingredients, subject genetically modified food ingredients to more rigorous safety testing, and should enact H.R. 1699, which requires a GMO disclosure on food with genetically modified food ingredients.

There are many reasons consumers want to know about the presence of GMOs in their food. Rather than boosting yields or nutritional benefits, GMO crops have so far only succeeded in boosting herbicide applications. What's more, genetically modified food ingredients are not subject to same safety reviews typically required of pesticides or many food additives. H.R. 4432 fails to address longstanding flaws in FDA safety reviews that contribute to consumer uncertainty and concern about those ingredients. What is needed, in addition to federally mandated labeling for genetically engineered ingredients in food, is a robust, modern safety review system for GMO crops that will ensure protection of public health and the environment.

When I testified, in response to a question, that I believed that genetically modified food ingredients were not harmful to eat, I was sharing my personal belief that consuming food containing genetically modified food ingredients would not cause the sort of immediate harm caused by adulterated food contaminated with pathogens. By any definition, a technology that significantly increased the use of herbicides and forced farmers to turn to more toxic herbicides is harmful to people and the environment.

Regardless of the reason, consumers should have the right to know what they are eating and feeding their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Faber', written in a cursive style.

Scott Faber