

January 22, 2015

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Committee on Energy and Commerce
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Re: Responses to January 9, 2015 Additional Questions for the Record

Responses to the Honorable Renee Ellmers:

- 1. If transparency in what people are eating is the motivating factor for the enactment of Act 120 as you state, what is the justification for exempting such a wide swath of food actually consumed in the state, such as restaurant food or what is consumed in convenience stores?**
 - a. Furthermore, how are consumers being given more information with a label saying the food is or may be genetically engineered if the label does not specify which ingredients in that product may have been the result of genetic modification? Or does the state believe an entire food product is genetically engineered?**

Response to 1: Act 120 requires labeling on the vast majority of foods sold in grocery stores, as well as packaged foods in convenience stores. The law provides consumers with information that is currently unavailable at the point of sale—when they are deciding what food products to purchase. While the Act includes some limited exemptions, each serves a purpose. For instance, the restaurant exemption takes into account the impracticability of requiring labeling in the restaurant environment, just as the federal Nutrition Labeling and Education Act similarly exempts certain restaurants from its mandatory nutritional labeling regime.

Response to a: Consumers who wish to avoid genetically engineered foods, whether for health, environmental, religious, or other reasons, benefit from knowing that a product was produced or may have been produced with genetic engineering, regardless of the specific ingredient that was produced with genetic engineering.

Responses to the Honorable Michael Pompeo:

- 1. What is the name of the entity that is reviewing GMO standards in Vermont?**

Response: Though I am not sure what is meant by “reviewing GMO standards in Vermont,” the Vermont Attorney General’s Office is the entity that is engaging in the rulemaking process to implement Act 120 and will approve third-party organizations that verify for a producer that a food is not produced with genetic engineering.

Responses to the Honorable Morgan Griffith:

- 1. Please provide your thoughts, suggestions, and feedback on Mr. Pompeo's bill, H.R. 4432 from the 113th Congress.**

Response: Please see my attached December 10, 2014 testimony in opposition of H.R. 4432.