

Seamons, Colleen

From: submissions
To: Cliff Mason
Subject: RE: Application A1035

From: Cliff Mason [mailto:]
Sent: Wednesday, 12 May 2010 3:08 PM
To: submissions
Subject: Application A1035

Submitter: Dr Cliff Mason

Address: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I request that FSANZ does not give approval to the products for which applications have been made as listed below:

Application A1035 - Food derived from insect-protected Soybean Line MON 87701

I request that these products are not approved for the following reasons:

1) Their approval would place an increased burden on myself and others who wish to avoid purchase or consumption of foods and materials derived by genetic engineering processes. There is already a large burden of choice placed on consumers by the complex labelling of many marketed products. As successive products become more widespread and comingled and as they fall below regulatory thresholds of fractional composition it becomes practically impossible to avoid these materials. As GE products become incorporated into foods offered at restaurants and other non-packaged contexts, there arises the difficulty and uncertainty of requesting and obtaining accurate declarations from the vendors. The cumulative effect is large at an individual level and accordingly very large when the population is considered as a whole. It must be considered that all consumers will be bearing this burden. Avoiding GE products will incur inconvenience and costs.

2) There is currently major concern about the regulatory approval processes in the United States that underpin the release of GE organisms into the agricultural environment. As these approvals also underpin FSANZ approvals, it would be prudent if approvals were withheld at least until there has been some resolution of the situation regarding the primary regulatory processes in the US.

3) Approval would further erode traceability of GE products in the market and the food chain.

4) The threat of WTO action amounts to a threat to our national freedom of choice simply for the commercial advantage of the manufacturer of GE products. This is an unacceptable imposition upon our sovereignty.

Thankyou for the opportunity to make this submission.

Yours sincerely,
Cliff Mason

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