

[REDACTED]

From: Linda Grammer [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 7 July 2017 5:07 PM
To: submissions; submissions
Subject: Linda Grammer submission opposing Application A1139 (GE potato) to FSANZ

Submission to Food Standards Australia NZ (FSANZ)

Regarding: Application A 1139 (GE potatoes)

Submission by:

Linda Grammer
[REDACTED]
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Our farming family opposes the application for GE potatoes. We ask FSANZ to decline approval of A1139 - Food derived from Potato Lines E56, F10, J3, W8, X17 & Y9.

Like many New Zealanders, we do not want to purchase or consume any GE food ingredients. We have read the assessments for this particular application and are concerned that FSANZ have led consumers and key stakeholders astray.

We note that there is insufficient data about both the sprays and the novel proteins detailed in the application.

We are particularly concerned about the risks of this particular application for GE potatoes. Potatoes are a staple food in NZ and the people of NZ should not be forced to consume GE potatoes (by their presence in the NZ food chain, unlabelled or undeclared).

We already have concerns that in NZ there are so many exemptions to labelling of imported GE food ingredients (GE oils, sweeteners, food additives and animal feed). The GE potatoes (if approved) would be unlabelled in supermarkets and dairies, forcing consumers to unknowingly eat GE food.

If approved, the GE potatoes would also be sold without being declared (invisible to the eye) at restaurants, takeaway shops, dairies and petrol stations.

This is unacceptable. A growing number of independent scientists, epidemiologists and other food safety experts have raised concerns about the risks of GE foods and a number of peer reviewed, reputable papers documenting adverse impacts of GE foods (tested on animals).

This application, if approved, would undermine consumer choice, consumer "right to know" and traceability and put at risk not only the general public but pregnant women, the elderly, young children and those with poor immune systems.

We oppose the use of risky imported GE potatoes into our food chain. A 2007 study showed that the consumption of GE potatoes has been observed to cause an increase in immunoglobulin (Ig) levels in human participants.

This is cause for concern, as antibody levels may well have increased as a result of novel proteins.

BIOSECURITY ISSUES- viable GE potatoes a threat to existing GM free primary producers and their valuable enterprises (including exporters) in NZ

We support NZ's existing Zero Tolerance Policy for any GE content in imported seeds, including adventitious presence. GE potatoes (living, viable potatoes) are (appropriately) illegal in NZ. Living potato plant material can be propagated by tubers or "eyes"- viable GE potatoes must be kept out of NZ.

Contamination of conventional food by GMOs/ GE is a serious public health and economic threat that FSANZ has failed to properly address in response to this application.

We are concerned that the Australian dominated FSANZ continues to make poor decisions, approving risky GE food applications, bringing toxic GE food ingredients into this country (which end up unlabelled on supermarket and dairy shelves, and sold without it being declared at restaurants, takeaway shops, petrol stations and other places where prepared food is sold).

We recommend that this particular application (GE potatoes) not be approved. We submit that FSANZ cannot approve the GE potatoes in the application without a serious breach of it's duty of care as well as the principles outlined in its mission statement.

The systems and processes currently used to approve this (and previous similar applications) are not fit for purpose as they lack the rigor and comprehensive data needed to make a genuine and credible safety assessment.

FSANZ has made a serious error by relying on the inadequate data and claims of the applicant. Independent scientific comment (as conveyed by the submission by Physicians & Scientists for Global Responsibility Charitable Trust NZ) highlights that the data available for assessment by FSANZ is inadequate for any approval to be legitimate or to meet FSANZ's legislated responsibility.

In the absence of proper data to inform FSANZ, there can be no legitimate approval of this application.

We ask FSANZ to protect NZ and Australia's public health, consumer right to know, food sovereignty, biosecurity and economy and DECLINE this application.

We support the more substantive submissions by GE FREE NZ, the Soil & Health Association Aotearoa NZ, and Physicians & Scientists for Global Responsibility Charitable Trust NZ.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit. Please keep us informed.