

**DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. [BILL NUMBER]

Labeling for genetically engineered items.

Sponsored by: Joint Agriculture, State and Public Lands &
Water Resources Interim Committee

A JOINT RESOLUTION

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION requesting Congress to enact legislation
2 reaffirming the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as the
3 primary authority in uniform food labeling related to
4 genetic engineering.

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

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11 WHEREAS, foods produced with genetically engineered
12 ingredients are as safe to eat and grow as foods produced

1 without genetically engineered ingredients as found by many
2 of the most influential regulatory agencies and
3 organizations in the world that study the safety of food
4 products, including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration,
5 the American Medical Association, the World Health
6 Organization, Health Canada, the U.S. Department of
7 Agriculture, the National Academy of Sciences, United
8 Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and the European
9 Food Safety Authority; and

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11 WHEREAS, genetically engineered technology provides
12 desirable traits from nature and establishes the potential
13 for nutritional, health, agronomic and environmental
14 benefits; and

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16 WHEREAS, genetic modification of crops has existed since
17 man began cultivating crops and genetically engineered
18 technology has been safely used to produce food products
19 for the past twenty-five (25) years; and

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21 WHEREAS, approximately seventy percent (70%) to eighty
22 percent (80%) of the foods consumed in the United States,
23 both at home and away from home, contain genetically

1 engineered ingredients or are genetically engineered as a
2 whole product; and

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4 WHEREAS, a patchwork of local and state mandatory labeling
5 laws and regulations will force costly changes to
6 manufacturing, labeling, warehousing, inventory and
7 distribution channels. Manufacturers and retailers will
8 have to make immediate and consequential changes to their
9 businesses to comply with new labeling requirements.
10 Testing to determine if products are exempt, relabeling or
11 reformulating products with specifically handled, higher-
12 priced ingredients and maintaining separate production
13 runs, state specific tracking units, segregated
14 warehousing, trucking and other logistical complexities
15 will result in higher food prices; and

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17 WHEREAS, a national solution is needed that will protect
18 consumers by eliminating confusion, advancing food safety
19 and providing for the free trade of commerce among the
20 states; and

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22 WHEREAS, a national solution will eliminate the confusion
23 and uncertainty of a fifty (50) state patchwork of
24 genetically engineered safety and labeling laws and affirm

1 the Food and Drug Administration as the nation's authority
2 for the use and labeling of genetically modified foods and
3 food ingredients; and

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5 WHEREAS, a national solution will require the Food and Drug
6 Administration to conduct a safety review of all new
7 genetically engineered ingredients before they are
8 introduced into commerce. The Food and Drug Administration
9 will be required to mandate the labeling of genetically
10 engineered food ingredients if the agency determines there
11 is a health, safety or nutrition issue with the genetically
12 engineered ingredient; and

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14 WHEREAS, a national solution will inform consumers through
15 federal standards established by the Food and Drug
16 Administration for companies that choose to voluntarily
17 label their products for the absence or presence of
18 genetically engineered food ingredients so that consumers
19 clearly understand their choices in the marketplace; and

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21 WHEREAS, a national solution will provide consistency in
22 that the Food and Drug Administration will define the term
23 "natural" for its use on food and beverage products so that
24 food and beverage companies and consumers have a consistent

1 legal framework that will guide food labels and inform
2 consumer choice.

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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 the Congress of the United States
8 enact bipartisan legislation that reaffirms the Food and
9 Drug Administration as the primary authority in uniform
10 food labeling related to genetic engineering, based on
11 scientific standards regarding health, safety and
12 nutrition.

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14 **Section 2.** That existing Food and Drug Administration
15 labeling rules and guidance, as well as the U.S. Department
16 of Agriculture's National Organic Program, provide
17 sufficient standards to address consumer interest in food
18 production practices through the use of truthful and non-
19 misleading voluntary labeling.

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21 **Section 3.** That the Commissioner of the Food and Drug
22 Administration adopt policies, regulations and rules
23 setting standards to address consumer interest in food
24 production practices through voluntary labeling.

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

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(END)