SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. SJ0004

Labeling for genetically engineered items—2.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Emerich, Driskill, Geis and Hicks

A JOINT RESOLUTION

for

A JOINT RESOLUTION requesting Congress to enact legislation providing uniform food labeling related to genetic engineering.

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

WHEREAS, foods produced with genetically engineered ingredients are as safe to eat and grow as foods produced without genetically engineered ingredients as found by many of the most influential regulatory agencies and organizations in the world that study the safety of food products, including the United States Food and Drug Administration, the American Medical Association, the World
Health Organization, Health Canada, the United States Department of Agriculture, the National Academy of Sciences, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and the European Food Safety Authority; and

WHEREAS, genetically engineered plants and animals provide desirable traits from nature and establish the potential for nutritional, health, agronomic and environmental benefits; and

WHEREAS, genetic modification of crops has existed since man began cultivating crops and genetically engineered technology has been safely used to produce food products for the past twenty (20) years; and

WHEREAS, approximately seventy percent (70%) to eighty percent (80%) of the foods consumed in the United States, both at home and away from home, contain genetically engineered ingredients or are genetically engineered as a whole product; and

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

WHEREAS, a national labeling solution is needed that will
protect consumers by eliminating confusion and providing
for the free trade of commerce among the states; and

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

WHEREAS, a national solution will inform consumers through
federal standards. Companies may choose to voluntarily
label their products for the absence or presence of
genetically engineered food ingredients so that consumers clearly understand their choices in the marketplace.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:

Section 1. That Congress of the United States enact bipartisan legislation that provides for food labeling based on scientific standards regarding health, safety and nutrition.

Section 2. That Congress provide sufficient standards to address consumer interest in food production practices through the use of truthful and nonmisleading voluntary labeling.
Section 3. That the Wyoming Secretary of State transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress and to the Wyoming Congressional Delegation.

(END)