



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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26 Mar 25

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: LD1257 An Act Regarding Labeling of Genetically Engineered Food Products

Senator Talbot Ross, Representative Pleucker and members of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee,

1. Thank you for considering my testimony in enthusiastic support of LD1257.
2. I hope that any genetically modified food or food that contains any genetically modified ingredient be clearly labeled so that consumers can have a clear, informed choice when buying food products.
3. I have a vested interest in this bill because I have family members, including several of my children, who have a severe allergy to genetically modified (GMO) corn. These family members, who can eat Non-GMO (organic) corn and foods that contain Non-GMO corn ingredients, become very ill when exposed to GMO corn. When exposed to GMO corn, they suffer a variety of allergy symptoms from severe hives, nausea and vomiting and on some occasions anaphylactic shock. At one point, one of my daughters suffered a life threatening medical emergency just from being exposed to the popcorn dust in the air of the lobby at a movie theater.
4. In addition to requiring that we now stock and carry injectable epinephrine (EPIPEN), it also requires that we thoroughly read the entire ingredient list of any prepared food product that we buy in search of any of almost 200 known food ingredients that do or might contain GMO corn. While some of these ingredients may be obvious, such as corn syrup, high fructose corn syrup, modified food starch and food starch, many of them are far more cryptic such as malonic acid and methylcellulose. To make it worse, some of the ingredients that are known to contain GM corn, such as methylcellulose, have multiple formulations that may, or may not, contain GMO corn.

House District 31

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5. Requiring labeling on food products that contain GMO ingredients can be a very important advance in health and safety for families like mine.

6. I thank you for your polite consideration and I respectfully urge the committee to vote Ought To Pass on LD1257.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad R. Perkins", with a stylized, flowing script.

Rep. Chad R. Perkins
District 31

CF:

Committee Chair Senator Talbot-Ross

Committee Chair Representative Plueker

Committee Members

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