

## **Statement in Opposition to Shareholder Proposal One**

I'm Justin Danhof, speaking as a representative of shareholder Amy Ridenour in opposition to Shareholder Proposal One.

Proposal One seeks mandatory labeling of foods that that discloses whether "genetic engineering was used to produce the food."

This proposal is unnecessary for Monsanto's corporate purposes and unnecessary for health purposes.

GMOs are mainstream agriculture.

GMOs feed people more efficiently.

GMO crops are more environment-friendly than conventional crops.

Numerous scientific bodies have determined that GMO foods are safe, including:

- The National Academy of Sciences
- The American Association for the Advancement of Science
- The American Medical Association
- The Royal Society of Medicine
- The World Health Organization

Literally hundreds of studies have confirmed that GMOs are safe.

Some say, why not label the foods anyway?

Because there are huge numbers of technical difficulties - difficulties that largely would be borne by retailers, not Monsanto - in getting these labels right.

And partly because of that, labeling would add unnecessary costs to the price of food.

The organic food industry has been funding calls for mandatory labeling because they believe such labels would scare people and cause them to buy more organic products.

In other words, they are in it for the money. They have the right to spend their money as they wish, but we have the right to care more about good policy than about their pocketbooks.

GMO foods are a great gift to mankind. They lower food costs, allow farmers to produce food in a more sustainable way, and, as Bill Gates and the Gates Foundation have pointed out, show great promise for ending world hunger and malnutrition.

Some people fear GMO foods because they can't tell the difference between them and the more traditionally-grown foods, but fear isn't always rational.

When it isn't, we shouldn't let it make our decisions for us.

I urge shareholders to vote against Shareholder Proposal One.

*Contact:*

*David Almasi at (202) 543-4110 x11 or (703) 568-4727 (text-enabled) or [dalmasi@nationalcenter.org](mailto:dalmasi@nationalcenter.org)*

*Judy Kent at (703) 759-7476 or [jkent@nationalcenter.org](mailto:jkent@nationalcenter.org)*

The National Center for Public Policy Research  
501 Capitol Court NE  
Washington DC 20002  
(202) 543-4110  
[www.nationalcenter.org](http://www.nationalcenter.org)  
[www.conservativeblog.org](http://www.conservativeblog.org)  
@NationalCenter