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November 5, 2023

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I am writing to express my concerns regarding the application A1274 for genetically modified bananas. I strongly believe that the approval process for this application should be halted until comprehensive scientific safety testing is conducted. I urge you to decline the approval of A1274 GM Banana.

One of the major issues with this application is the lack of adequate information pertaining to food safety. The submission fails to provide any analysis or research on the seven new proteins identified in the genetically modified banana. It is crucial to understand the implications of these proteins on food safety when the banana is consumed.

Furthermore, the GM bananas will contain a gene that expresses antibiotic resistance. This raises concerns about potential problems of bacterial resistance to kanamycin-type antibiotics if the gene is transferred to gut bacteria. The impact of different medicines that alter the survival rate of GM constructs in the gut and bloodstream of consumers has not been sufficiently studied either.

Another significant gap in the application is the absence of research on the varying effects of consuming the GM bananas on different population groups such as infants, children, the sick, and the elderly. It is essential to understand any potential risks or adverse effects specific to these vulnerable groups.

Until long-term studies are conducted to assess the effects of the transgenes and inflammatory response in small bowel flora, villi, and epithelium, the approval of the GM banana must be declined. Additionally, FSANZ should require laboratory diagnostic tests for the detection of the transgenes to be made available for health professionals before granting any approval for the product.

It is imperative that scientific evidence on the long-term safety of consuming the GM banana is thoroughly evaluated and required before any approval is granted. The information provided in the application does not instill confidence in the public regarding the effectiveness, transparency, and accountability of the regulatory framework assessment.

In conclusion, I urge you to prioritize the safety of consumers and the environment by halting the approval process for application A1274 until robust scientific safety testing is

conducted. I strongly recommend declining the approval of the GM banana.

Sincerely

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