Petition to US Dept of Agriculture:

DON'T APPROVE ILLEGAL GENETICALLY ENGINEERED RICE

Re: Docket #APHIS-2006-0140 - Deregulation of Bayer CropScience GE Rice, LL601

As Americans, we are extremely concerned about the recent contamination of the U.S. long-grain rice crop by an illegal genetically engineered variety, Bayer's LL601. We are outraged that the USDA is considering granting market approval for this illegal rice after the fact. **Crop contamination should not be a route to commercialization.z**

This rice was never approved for human consumption, and should not be in our food supply. To retroactively deregulate a variety never reviewed by USDA makes consumers pay for the recklessness of the biotech industry. Japan, South Korea and the European Union have banned or restricted the importation of ANY long-grain rice from the US, resulting in millions of dollars in losses to the already struggling US farm economy. **Taxpayers and American farmers should not be asked to pay for Bayer's mistake.**

As consumers, we want the choice to eat foods free of genetically engineered ingredients. Allowing the contamination, and subsequent deregulation, of a food like rice not thought to be genetically engineered, makes that choice impossible. **Consumer safety should not be risked for biotech industry profits.**

We the undersigned urge the USDA:

1. NOT to approve Bayer's genetically engineered LL601 rice in the US food supply;

2. to hold Bayer responsible for their actions, by destroying all contaminated rice and requiring Bayer to compensate US farmers and food companies for their losses; and

3. to make testing protocols and test samples available to the public and to independent testing laboratories in order to test and recall contaminated food products.

PRINT NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE, ZIP