

March 22, 2007

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Mikulski:

Consumers Union is pleased to offer support for your bill, *Cloned Food Labeling Act* (S. 414), which will respond to the recent announcement by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that it is unlikely to recommend any special measures with regard to the sale or use of meat, milk and other food from cloned animals or their offspring. Consumers Union feels strongly that consumers have a right to know if the meat and milk they are consuming comes from cloned animals, and therefore we support your bill to insure that all food that comes from cloned animals be labeled as such.

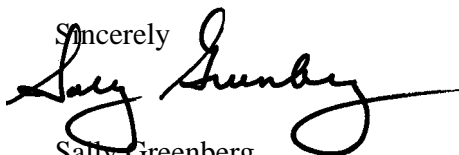
Your bill, which addresses labeling of meat and dairy products sold in all retail supermarkets and restaurants, will include not only cloned animal products, but also any of its "progeny," because cloned animals may be used to breed other animals. We also support the imposition of civil penalties on distributors if this labeling requirement is violated. It is also important that the responsibility for enforcement of this labeling requirement should fall on both the FDA and the Department of Agriculture.

CU believes that the FDA's draft risk assessment on the safety of meat and milk from cloned animals was based on only very limited data, and that the safety of cloned products is of too great import to American consumers to be decided on the basis of just a few industry studies. We agree with another group of Senators who wrote to the FDA in October expressing concerns about consumption of cloned animal products and recommending that a thorough and thoughtful review of the science and public participation in the process is necessary before the any government agency gives its stamp of approval.

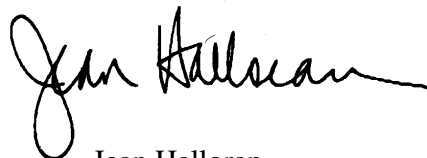
The labeling requirement is also respectful of those consumers who actively oppose cloning - an ABC News poll found that almost 60 percent of Americans think it should be illegal to clone animals. A poll by the International Food Information Council found that a similar percentage would not buy cloned milk or meat even if FDA said it was safe.

We commend you for your leadership in introducing *Cloned Food Labeling Act* and look forward to working closely with you on this issue in the coming months.

Sincerely



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