



## The Idaho Observer

# Manila's Bright Lights Replace Washington's "Dim Bulbs"!



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*"Reader, suppose you were an idiot. And suppose you were a member of Congress. But I repeat myself."* —Mark Twain

The slums of Manila contain many one-room shelters of approximately 200 square feet where entire families live together in a room without windows. During the day electricity is used to light incandescent light bulbs. Until a major innovation—**free light from the sun is being utilized to replace the use of electricity during daytime.**

Discarded one-liter clear water bottles are filled with purified water and two cups of bleach to prevent growth of algae and bacteria. The bottles are placed through a hole in the metal corrugated roof, where most of the bottle protrudes into the shelter. A sealant around the top of the bottle prevents leaks. Each solar light provides the same light as a 55-watt incandescent bulb. National Public Radio (NPR) released this information, *"In Philippine Slums, Capturing Light in a Bottle"* December 28, 2011 [npr.org/.../in-philippine-slums-capturin...](http://npr.org/.../in-philippine-slums-capturin...) Three solar lights are usually used to light the one-room shelter. The "bulbs" have a five-year lifespan compared to the nine months for an incandescent bulb used three hours per day.

According to *The Manila Times.net* (December 29, 2011), *"Let there be (solar) light (from plastic bottles)"*, Illac Diaz, the head of *"My Shelter Foundation"*, stated that "15,000 solar light bottles have been installed in slums around Manila, the Philippine capital, this year and the project was set to ramp up with another 10,000 to be put in homes during a mass day of volunteer action today." Diaz says: *"It's safer. It's healthier. It's brighter. And the funny thing is the light bulb comes from the place you'd least expect it, which is the trash bin. So it's the cheapest light bulb in the world."*

Prisoners make the solar bulbs and volunteers install them. Approximately ten dollars a month is saved on the electric bill." Diaz said that another 100,000 bulbs will be installed in the Philippines' second largest city, Cebu, this month, putting the project on track to meet or exceed its goals of helping one million people over twelve months."

**"This is a grassroots revolution, a people-powered revolution, using simple and low-cost technologies."**



**"Simple and low-cost technologies" isn't the vocabulary of our "dim-bulb" leaders and their greedy corporate sponsors in the US. Our legislative idiots have passed a law that has banned the manufacture and sale of incandescent light bulbs (100, 75, 60 and 40 watt) beginning 1/1/2012 and ending in 2014. Only high cost, high technology Compact Florescent (CFL) and Light Emitting Diode (LED) light bulbs will be permitted.**

This subject will be continued in next months *The Sovereign*.

Hopefully, "The Occupy" movement will inspire citizens to take over the failed functions of US government by beginning a grassroots revolution to cut down the weeds in Washington.

## Center for Food Safety Demands FDA Label GMO's

By: Anne Wilder Chamberlain, Idaho-ObsERVER.com

Support of the Center for Food Safety's Legal Petition to FDA to Require Labeling of Genetically Engineered Foods (Docket No. FDA-2011-P-0723-0001/CP).

The Center for Food Safety recently filed a petition with FDA demanding that the agency require the labeling of genetically engineered (GE) foods. Americans have been asking Congress to pass a labeling law for more than ten years, to no avail. Unsuspecting consumers by the tens of millions are being allowed to purchase and consume unlabeled GE foods, despite a finding by FDA scientists that these foods could pose serious risks and despite the fact that FDA does not do any testing of its own and instead relies only on consultation with the industry it is supposed to be regulating to assure safety. The patentability of GE foods demonstrates that they are novel, and should be labeled. In fact, GE foods are required to be labeled in the 15 European Union nations, Russia, Japan, China, Australia, New Zealand, and many other countries around the world. A recent poll released by ABC News found that 93 percent of the American public wants the federal government to require mandatory labeling of genetically engineered foods. As ABC News stated, "Such near-unanimity in public opinion is rare." Yet the United States is one of the only countries in the world that doesn't require labeling of GE food!

US courts have recognized a fundamental "right-to-know" rooted in the US Constitution and in common law. Whether FDA believes that GE foods are "of the same or equal quality" as their conventional counterparts is irrelevant to the question of whether unlabeled GE foods are misleading. The proper focus is consumers' expectations and whether they are being deceived. Because consumers do not expect foods to be genetically engineered absent special labeling, their right to know what is in their food is being taken away by FDA's GE labeling policy.

Additionally, a number of studies over the past decade have revealed that genetically engineered foods can pose serious risks to humans, domesticated animals, wildlife and the environment. Human health effects can include higher risks of toxicity, allergenicity, antibiotic resistance, immune-suppression and cancer. As for environmental impacts, the use of genetic engineering in agriculture has led to uncontrolled transgenic pollution, threatening numerous microbial, plant and animal species with extinction; a dramatic increase in pesticides released into our environment; and the creation of an epidemic of herbicide-resistant superweeds. These health and environmental impacts matter to the public and support the requirement that these foods be labeled.

In the US, we pride ourselves on having choices and making informed decisions. Under current FDA regulations, we don't have that choice when it comes to GE ingredients in the foods we purchase. Labeling is essential if we want to choose whether to consume or feed our families risky genetically engineered foods.

**For more information and to take action, go to: [http://salsa3.salsalabs.com/o/1881/p/dia/action/public/?action\\_KEY=5452](http://salsa3.salsalabs.com/o/1881/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=5452)**