



## The Idaho Observer

# GMO, Failed Promises; Flawed Science: A Serious Health and Safety Issue

**Editor's note: In July, 2015, the US House of Representatives, with the help of \$29 million in funding from the biotech industry, passed HR1599, which it misnamed "The Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015." The bill is headed to the Senate to be voted on after its August break.**

The bill states, "the Secretary may require that the labeling of a food produced from, containing, or consisting of a genetically engineered plant contain a statement to adequately inform consumers of a difference between the food so produced and its comparable food if the Secretary determines that there is a material difference in the functional, nutritional, or compositional characteristics, allergenicity, or other attributes between the food so produced and its comparable food;" and then adds, "the Secretary of Health and Human Services... notified the consulting party in writing that all questions with respect to the safety of food produced from, containing, or consisting of the genetically engineered plant have been resolved."

Nothing could be further from the truth. Following is an article written by Dr. Don M. Huber, Emeritus Professor of Plant Pathology at Idaho's Purdue University. His specialty is in soilborne diseases, microbial ecology, and nutrient-disease interactions. He has University documentation of how the glyphosates used indiscriminately with GMO crops not only destroy the beneficial soil microbes and stomach bacteria of those who use it, but actually encourage the growth of pathogens both in our digestive tracts and in the soil, to the point that US fields where glyphosate has been constantly used are no longer supporting crops, no matter how much fertilizer is put on them. He stated that glyphosate has a half life of up to 22 years and farmers are starting to seek some kind of (very expensive) product to remove it from the soil so the soil can be productive again.

We need to contact our senators and tell them to vote NO on HR 1599; that glyphosates are deadly to our children and the soil, and that more research is needed before our government blindly accepts the word of the biotech industry that its Franken-products are safe.

By Dr. Don M. Huber

Opinions touting the benefits of genetically modified food need correcting. There is nothing in biotechnology that has increased the intrinsic yield potential of any crop. Instead, there is a consistent yield reduction when the integrity of the normal genetics is disrupted by genetic engineering. Yield and quality factors are complex genetics accomplished by traditional breeding and not amenable to 'silver bullet' tinkering. Genetic engineering is more like a virus infection than a normal breeding process, and "substantially equivalent" is a myth.



Rather than encouraging independent research on GMO safety or performance, the companies have denied access to them, forbidden publication of data, and threatened legal action if negative data are disclosed. The indiscriminate use of glyphosate and GMO crops are precipitating a major chronic health and environmental crisis. Rather than the way to feed the world, current genetic engineering is a disaster in the making. It is an unsustainable strategy for the 21st century!

The benefits claimed for GMOs are failed promises. Reduced root growth, lower nutrient density, increased disease, greater stress susceptibility of GMO crops and need for more pesticides are well documented. The abundance of weeds and insects resistant to GMO plants, or the chemicals they were engineered to tolerate, complicate our ability to control these pests. GMOs should be characterized as toxic chemical accumulating and pesticide containing foods.

Contrary to the common claim of safety, a large volume of peer-reviewed scientific information shows that genetically engineered products and the Roundup® herbicide that 85% of GE plants were engineered to tolerate, are chronically toxic to human and animal tissues and lead to cancer, premature death, kidney and liver failure, and blood disorders. There are NO peer-reviewed scientific studies that show GMO crops, or the chemicals they are engineered to tolerate or produce, are safe for human or animal consumption.

Medical data indicates that millions of children and adults are suffering from the chronically toxic GMO products or the glyphosate (Roundup®) these plants accumulate. Massachusetts Institute of Technology scientists

have documented the biochemical disruption caused by genetic engineering and concluded that glyphosate (Roundup®) is the most chronically toxic chemical in our environment. Ninety-three percent of women tested had the GMO Bt toxin in their blood, and 70% passed this toxic pesticide to their developing child in the womb.

As a patented powerful antibiotic, the herbicide glyphosate is toxic to microorganisms in the soil and GI tract of humans and animals that are essential for mineral absorption, vitamin production, tryptophan synthesis, and defense against pathogens such as E. coli, Salmonella, and Clostridium.

The increase of 'gut related' diseases such as Alzheimer's, autism, birth defects, breast cancer, celiac, chronic fatigue, end stage kidney failure, infertility, irritable bowel, leaky gut, Parkinson's, peritonitis, rheumatoid arthritis, and many others are directly correlated with GMO proteins and glyphosate residues in food and feed products.

The indiscriminate use of glyphosate and GMO crops are precipitating a major chronic health and environmental crisis. Drift from spraying glyphosate on GMO crops increased birth defects, reproductive failure and cancer in adjacent towns up to 450% in Argentina. As little as 0.1 part per billion Roundup® in drinking water increased breast cancer, kidney failure, liver failure, endocrine hormone disruption and cytotoxicity to cells and tissues.

Rather than fewer pesticide applications, there has been a many fold increase in pesticide use with GMO crops. Much of this increased pesticide accumulates in food and feed products. EPA has approved residue limits 4,000 times higher than previously permitted - all without any safety evaluation! The USDA, EPA, and FDA have NO independent testing on safety, and rely on statements of the companies that the higher levels are safe. It is much more than a 'right to know' issue! GMOs are a serious chronic health and safety threat to us and to our environment. Future historians may well look back upon our time and write, not about how many pounds of pesticides we did or did not apply, but about how willing we are to sacrifice our children and jeopardize future generations for this massive experiment we call genetic engineering that is based on failed promises and flawed science, just to benefit the bottom line of a commercial enterprise.

Dr. Don M. Huber, Emeritus Professor, Purdue University; COLAUS (Ref, Medical Intelligence); Former Chairman, USDA National Plant Disease Recovery Program; former member US Threat Pathogens Committee; Advi-

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sory Board, Office of Technology Assessment, US Congress; and OTSG Global Epidemiology Working Group.

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# In Defense Of The Peer-to-peer Economy

By: Darryl W. Perry



Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton, two of the at least five Democrats seeking that parties presidential nomination, have recently come out in opposition to a growing segment of the economy: the so called peer-to-peer economy. Sanders, in an interview with Bloomberg News, said he has “serious problems” with the popular car-hailing company Uber, claiming it to be “unregulated.” However, Uber is not unregulated. A spokesperson for the company told The Hill that 54 different jurisdictions already have regulations for ride-hailing services in place.

Hillary, in a campaign event in July, said, “This on demand, or so-called ‘gig economy’, is creating exciting opportunities and unleashing innovation. But it’s also raising hard questions about workplace protections and what a good job will look like in the future.” Adding that if elected President, she’d “crack down on bosses who exploit employees by misclassifying them as contractors or even steal[ing] their wages.”

Hillary did not state whether or not as President she would direct law enforcement to target people operating an AirBNB out of their home, or drivers for Uber or Lyft. Though local law enforcement does not need a Presidential decree to set up sting operations to target what police have deemed to be “bandit cabs” or people renting rooms in their home.

An undercover sting operation in LA recently led to three arrests of Uber drivers, who also had their cars impounded. CBS LA reports the drivers “said they were flagged down by a woman on the side of the road who was looking for a ride. The drivers explained they stopped to pick the customer up as they thought she could use the app right then and there if they pulled over.” The woman, who the drivers thought needed help, was not a damsel-in-distress, rather she was an undercover cop trying to catch a driver who would accept an off-the-books rides for cash.

One of the arrested drivers said, “My door was open and, next thing I know, the cops are behind with the sirens on.” All three believe it was entrapment, saying they’ve never asked people before if they needed a ride, and pointed to their near-perfect customer ratings.

In San Diego, Rachel Smith, a 70 year old retired school teacher who rented a room in her house through AirBNB, is facing a \$25,000 fine for allegedly operating a bed and breakfast despite never serving her guests breakfast. Smith says she is technically exempt from the city’s legal definition of bed and breakfast. This technical exemption, however, did not persuade the judge, Catriona Miller, who ruled, “While [Smith] did not serve breakfast regularly in this establishment, it is the type of establishment where breakfast is typically served.”

I wonder if the exciting opportunities envisioned by Hillary included the opportunity to spend a day in court, or get your car impounded. Or if she envisioned that innovations inspired by the peer-to-peer economy would include new ways for police to raise revenue, such as posing as a damsel-in-distress, or judges claiming that even though a 70 year old woman never served breakfast she’s operating a bed and breakfast. Time will tell how many new ways legislators, judges, and various bureaucrats will create to shut down these would-be entrepreneurs. Government officials should not be looking for ways to hinder and regulate business, instead they should get out of the way and allow individual businesses, and business models, to succeed or fail on their own merit.

**In Peace, Freedom, Love & Liberty, Darryl W. Perry**

**Darryl has spent most of his adult life as an advocate & activist for peace and liberty. Darryl is an award winning author, publisher & radio/TV host. He is a regular contributor to several weekly and monthly newspapers. He hosts the daily newscast FPPRadioNews, the podcast Peace, Love, Liberty Radio, the weekly news podcast FPP Freedom Minute, and is a regular co-host on Free Talk Live. Darryl is a co-founder and co-chair of the NH Liberty Party. Darryl is the Owner/Managing Editor of Free Press Publications.**

**To schedule an interview with Darryl please send an email to [editor@fpp.cc](mailto:editor@fpp.cc) or call 202 709 4377**