



WHEREAS:

- Abbott Laboratories' uses genetically modified (GMO) ingredients in products of its nutritional lines of foods including in its nine Similac Soy Isomil Products intended for infants;
- Our competitor, Gerber Products announced it would not allow genetically engineered (GE) corn or soybeans in any of their baby foods (7/99);
- Investors are starting to scrutinize "off-balance sheet" liabilities, such as risks associated with activities harmful to human health and the environment that can impact long-term shareholder value;
- The entire European Union, Australia, China, Japan, and Russia require GMO labeling, and several of the US states have passed or proposed similar labeling laws. According to a 2010 poll conducted by Reuters Thompson, more than 90 percent of Americans thought GMO-containing foods should be labeled;
- An analysis of current toxicity protocols, *Debate on GMOs Health Risks after Statistical Findings in Regulatory Tests*. (Int J Biol Sci 2010; 6:590-598) calls for longer, more detailed, and transparent toxicological tests on GMOs or GE-foods;
- The recently published peer reviewed study, "Long Term Toxicity of Roundup-Tolerant Genetically Modified Maize" (Food and Chemical Toxicology Sept. 2012) found that lab rats fed GMO NK603 over a two year period had significantly shorter lifespans than controls due to increased tumor growth in the breasts, pituitary, and liver;
- Some GE crops have been engineered with higher levels of toxins, such as *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) a soil bacterium with insecticidal effects, to make them insect resistant that may involve the synthesis of natural carcinogens posing a public health risk. A 2011 study, reported the presence of pesticides associated with GM foods in both non-pregnant women and pregnant women and their fetuses.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

Shareholders request the Board of Directors to adopt a policy of removing genetically engineered crops, organisms, or products thereof from all nutritional products sold or manufactured by the company, whenever feasible, until long-term safety testing has shown that they are not harmful to humans, animals, and the environment; with the interim step of labeling and identifying these products that may contain these ingredients, and reporting to the shareholders, at reasonable cost and excluding proprietary information, on such policy and its implementation by October 2013.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT:

We believe that this technology involves significant social, economic, and environmental risks. Our company should take a leadership position regarding sale of genetically engineered crops and foods. Failure to do so could leave our company financially liable and at risk of damage to its brand and reputation, should detrimental effects to public health or the environment appear in the future.