

DATE: **1 July 2015**

FROM: **Dick Atlee**, [address], atlee@dickatlee.com, [phone]

TO: **Senator Susan Collins**, fax 202-224-2693, phone 202-224-2523

ATTN: **Jill Carney**

RE: **The current rushed GMO-(non)-labeling DARK Act**

I must admit I was shocked -- I guess naively so -- when I learned yesterday that the Senator had apparently reversed her position and voted to move the current (far-worse-than-ever) DARK Act forward without debate, presumably now to be done as soon as possible, despite all the gridlock seen elsewhere.

I can only hope that the Senator did this under the misunderstanding that this "compromise" bill is a "mandatory" labeling bill. It most assuredly is NOT that:

1. It is VOLUNTARY, NOT MANDATORY.

There are no repercussions specified for violations.

2. It is NOT LABELING.

The specified QR codes and website URLs and toll-free numbers do not mention genetic engineering or GMO on the package, and are usable only with devices unavailable to a third of the population, a half of the rural population, and three-fourths of seniors. I'm one of all these people. Even if one has a device, the requisite wireless/cell signal is often not available.

3. It is INSUFFICIENT.

Large numbers of GMO foods are excluded, as are all the newer versions of genetic engineering (incredibly, even the FDA is remarking on this flaw).

4. It is DESTRUCTIVE.

It -- and the rush to pass it -- is specifically designed to preempt (a) the Vermont law now in effect, (b) the Maine and Connecticut laws that are poised to go into effect, and (c) all others that are in the pipeline, without replacing them with anything for 2 years (and then with what?).

In case there's any doubt about this, if perhaps you or the Senator has not read the bill in detail, I've put the bill's formal language (and its history) -- which I've formatted for easy reading -- up at

<http://dickatlee.com/dark>

Because of the increasing evidence that genetic engineering poses a potential risk of -- and the herbicide glyphosate presents an ACTUAL risk of -- a whole range of the chronic diseases that have mushroomed since their introduction in the mid-90's, clear and accurate labeling (which this bill DOES NOT DO) is essential. The epidemiological research necessary to demonstrate the connection requires labeling -- hence the industry's clear determination to hide what it otherwise brags about as being so beneficial.

Voting for this bill next Tuesday, or whenever it comes up, brings down upon the Senator's shoulders a huge responsibility for the human and ecological toll that will inevitably result and be demonstrated.

I hope that the Senator will proceed with her vote with no illusions about what she is voting on.

Thank you.

Dick Atlee

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FROM: **Dick Atlee**, P.O. Box 1510, Southwest Harbor, ME, atlee@dickatlee.com, 207-244-9590

TO: **Senator Angus King**, fax 202-224-1946, phone 202-224-5344

ATTN: **Marge Kilkenny**

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