

[Your Name]

[Your city, state and district (if known)]

[Email]

[Date]

Dear Congressperson [Enter Congressperson's name]

I am writing to ask you to introduce and support the **REAL Food Act** (Regulating Engineered and Altered-food for Life Act). I am a small business owner in Greenville, Texas, and a retired U.S. Air Force veteran, and I wrote this bill because Americans are eating food that no independent authority has tested for long-term safety.

Most people assume the food on grocery store shelves has been independently tested and approved. Much of it has not. Under the Generally Recognized as Safe (GRAS) process, a company can determine that its own ingredient is safe using its own data, and the FDA often reviews that company-supplied data rather than conducting independent testing. Consider what has reached the market under this system:

- **Lab-grown meat.** Cell-cultured chicken and salmon are legal to sell in the United States, without long-term human safety studies.
- **Shelf-life coatings.** Coatings such as Apeel are applied to fresh produce, cannot be washed off, and were accepted by the FDA on the basis of the manufacturer's own safety filing.
- **Vague labeling.** Products labeled as containing bioengineered ingredients often do not say which ingredient, and some manufacturers direct shoppers to a QR code instead of printing the information on the package.
- **Expanding use.** USDA is considering adding wheat, dry beans, golden rice, and a genetically engineered purple tomato to the federal List of Bioengineered Foods.

The REAL Food Act would:

- Prohibit the sale of bioengineered foods for human consumption;
- Prohibit cell-cultured and lab-grown food products for human consumption;
- Prohibit coatings and additives applied to fresh food to extend its shelf life; and
- Reform how the FDA and USDA review and approve new food technologies, so that safety decisions rest on independent testing rather than industry data.

Americans of every political affiliation want to know that their food is safe. I respectfully ask you to sponsor or cosponsor the REAL Food Act, and I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or your staff to discuss it. The full bill text, a supporting policy proposal, and a public petition are available at the website listed above.

Thank you for your time and for your service to the people you represent.

Respectfully, [Your Name]