

Email Submission: Craig Linn

Submission on: Review of the Gene Technology Regulations 2001

To the OGTR,

I will keep this submission very brief.

Regardless of the physical technique employed (CRISPR, RNAi, gene drives, etc) if there is a resultant change in any genetic material and consequently a change in the nature of the organism, then we have Genetic Modification (GM) occurring and this must be fully regulated.

Many of the techniques under consideration are very new. We need full multi-generational safety assessments, we need stringent regulation, we need explicit labeling of products, we need ongoing monitoring, and we need financial and criminal penalties of significance where developers and users of these technologies fail to provide the full facts or fail to comply with the regulations.

The alteration of life is not a trivial "business", and there is no scope for reduction in regulations in such matters.

While there certainly are responsible scientists involved in GM research, there are also "cowboys" in all fields of business, particularly during the early startup years. The GM industry in no exception, and as such must be regulated tightly.

Yours sincerely
Craig Linn