March 31, 2004

PETSMART.com
1989 Transit Way
PO Box 910
Brockport, NY 14420-0910

To Whom It May Concern:

The Center for Food Safety applauds your decision not to sell genetically engineered GloFish. In a recent Washington Post article, a Petsmart spokeswoman said that Petsmart is not selling the GloFish because more scientific data is needed.

The Center for Food Safety agrees that more scientific studies need to be conducted and reviewed before selling these fish to the public. As for the current scientific evidence on the GloFish, a few scientists have reviewed the GloFish independently and raised human health and environmental concerns. (see scientific comments attached). Unfortunately, the federal government is not looking at these human health and environmental concerns because no federal agency is regulating these fish. As a result, the Center for Food Safety is legally challenging this inappropriate decision. Given the lack of science and regulatory oversight, Petsmart’s decision not to sell these genetically engineered fish is a precautionary measure that the Center for Food Safety commends.

Petsmart's decision to not sell the GloFish is consistent with consumer opinion. In a recent poll, more than eight in ten American adults (84%) do not think companies should be allowed to genetically engineer animals for sale as pets. The Center for Food Safety is highly concerned about the sale of genetically engineered pet animals; however, we are encouraged to find that companies such as Petsmart are acting responsibly by not promoting the sale of unregulated genetically engineered animals.

If you have an official company statement/policy on selling genetically engineered animals, we would appreciate a copy. Please let us know if we can
provide you with any information about our work addressing the concerns with genetically engineered fish and animals.

Sincerely,

Tracie Letterman
Fish Program Director