

36 Bust-O-Dawn  
Waynesville, NC 28786  
4 January 2000

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
Docket #97N-0511  
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061  
Rockville, MD 20857

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Dear Friends:

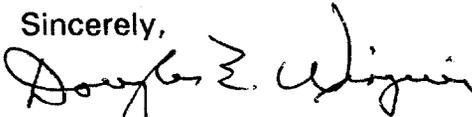
I write to oppose your proposed legislation that would require mandatory pasteurization (or radiation) of all fresh juices. Such legislation is a denial of my freedom to purchase and consume the juice I want, which is the most nutritious and safest in my judgment.

The benefits of fresh juice far outweigh any risks you may be concerned about. Fresh juices contain live enzymes, which are the "life force" behind all metabolic processes. No vitamin, mineral, or hormone can do its work without enzymes. Juice enzymes are found only in raw (fresh juice that has not been heated above 118 degrees. Pasteurization kills all the enzymes in juice, thereby drastically reducing its nutritious value.

Furthermore, fresh juice is safe. In the last decade billions of servings of fresh juice have been consumed in the U.S. The rare outbreaks that have occurred during this time were directly linked to poor manufacturing practices. The two largest outbreaks, which presumably have led to this proposed legislation, were directly caused by large companies taking shortcuts in order to boost profits. In the past 10 years there have been over 1.7 billion oranges squeezed by conscientious manufacturers into fresh juice. Labs ran 17,500 microbial tests on this juice and not one tested positive for Salmonella or E.Coli.O157:H7.

If the government mandates pasteurization of fresh juice, we will lose our right to choose. If cigarettes are available to the public with a warning label, at the very least fresh juice should be available with a warning label. Let it be the informed consumer's choice whether or not we want to buy fresh juice.

Sincerely,

  
Dr. Douglas E. Wingeier

copies: Senators Jesse Helms and John Edwards  
Congressman Charles Taylor

P.S. to Senators Helms and Edwards and Congressman Taylor:

I urge you to vote against the above legislation. Thank you. DEW

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