12/22/99

Dear Secretary Shalala,

1335 '00 JAN -3 A10:41

I'm writing because I am concerned about the possible weakening of labeling requirements for irradiated food. I feel the responsibility of the food and drug administration is to at least give us the opportunity to know what we are eating.

It is known that food products undergo chemical changes after exposure to radioactive isotopes. I think these cosmetic and nutritional changes in foods warrant disclosure on a prominent place on the package. Also, food that is not packaged should be accompanied by a poster in plain view of where it is displayed for sale.

Labels are required by law to be truthful, not misleading.

Only clear, prominently-placed labels should be acceptable for irradiated foods.

I hope you will honor and defend the consumers right to know on this issue.

Sincerely

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