

23 December 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville Maryland 20852

Re: Docket # 98N-1038  
"Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of  
Food"

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my opinion that THE FDA SHOULD RETAIN THE CURRENT LABELING LAW, the current terminology of "TREATED WITH IRRADIATION" and they should RETAIN THE USE OF THE RADURA SYMBOL on all irradiated foods.

Irradiation is a "material fact" about the processing of a food, and therefore needs to be disclosed on the label to inform the customers.

Some irradiated foods have different texture and spoilage characteristics, the nutrition has been lessened. In addition, processing by irradiation causes chemical changes that are not evident and are potentially hazardous. Meat may have a higher level of carcinogenic benzene. All irradiated foods contain unique radiolytic products that have never been tested. This is till a new technology with no long-term human feeding studies, therefore consumers have a right to know if this process has been used on their food.

I believe that the label should be large enough to be readily visible, on the front of the package.

Yours truly,

*Alice W. Hungate*

Alice W Hungate  
34606 Hiway 16  
Woodland, CA 95695

C 4981

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FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION

5630 FISHERS LANE, ROOM 1061

ROCKVILLE MARYLAND 20852

