Dec. 26, 1999

Dear Secretary Shalala:

'00 JAN 11 AM 10:47

I am writing in regards to the possible weakening of label requirements being considered by the Food and Drug Administration. Labels are required by law to be truthful and not misleading. As such, I strongly believe that irradiated foods should be clearly and permanently labeled.

It is my opinion that I have the right to know if the foods I am eating are irradiated. Without labels, I am unable to make informed food purchasing decisions. Elimination of the requirement to label irradiated foods will negatively affect consumers right-to-know while benefiting two powerful industries: agribusiness and nuclear power.

Long-term, unbiased studies (pertaining to potential human health effects) should be conducted and documented before elimination of the requirement to label irradiated foods should be considered. I urge you to support and defend basic consumer rights during this important decision-making process.

Sincerely,

Anna Foothol

C5-002

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Donna Shalala, Secretary
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