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December 31, 1999

Donna Shalala, Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Shalala:

I am writing to express my concern over weakening labeling requirements for genetically engineered and irradiated foods that are being considered by the U.S. Food and Drug administration. I strongly believe that it is my right to know what food has been treated with radiation or genetically engineered.

Food products undergo chemical changes after exposure to radioactive isotopes. These cosmetic and nutritional changes in foods warrant disclosure on a prominent place on the package. All genetically engineered foods should be labeled as GE Food. Labels are required by law to be truthful and not misleading to the customer. Food that is not packaged should be accompanied by a poster with GE and/or irradiated food labeling in plain view of where it is displayed for sale. I believe that only clear, honest and permanent labeling is acceptable for foods that are genetically engineered or exposed to radiation.

I hope that you will defend the consumer's right to know in this important decision-making process. I pay special attention to labeling issues and I will be watching to see what progress you take. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Joan Linney

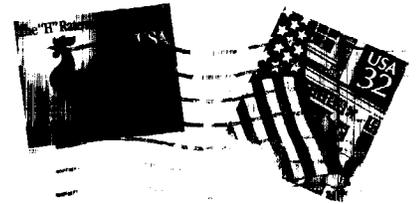


98N-1038

CS-023



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CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 98N-1038/C5023

See File Number: 99N-4282/C930