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January 4, 2000

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

Dear Secretary Shalala

I am writing to express my concern that the Food and Drug Administration is considering weakening the labeling for irradiated food. I strongly believe I have a right to know if the food I eat was treated with radiation.

When food is exposed to radioactive isotopes it undergoes chemical changes which affect appearance and nutritional content. This needs to be disclosed on a prominent place on the packaging; or, for unpackaged food, on a poster, in plain view of the customer. Only truthful labels that are clear, honest, and permanent are acceptable.

I hope you will defend the consumer's right to know in this important decision.

Sincerely,

Jocelyn L. Donald

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