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Donna Shalala, Secretary
U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW.
Washington, DC. 20201

Dear Secretary Shalala,

Hi. I am writing to tell you that my family and I are strongly against the weakening of labeling requirements for irradiated food. I already have a serious immune system problem - we just have to know whether the food we eat has been treated with radiation. There is no question about it.

There is no scientific question whether exposing food to radiation causes chemical changes, it does. That's how it kills the bad bugs. If the food being sold isn't packaged, there won't be a label - so how do we know? If the food was treated with radiation in an early stage of processing, then handed off to a subsidiary, will the package carry a label?

What is wrong with not irradiating food? Who needs it? Is it just another way to treat old food, or rotten food, or bad looking food, so we will still buy it?

The only acceptable policy is clear and honest labeling of all food that has been irradiated. We trust that you agree.

Sincerely,

DONALD J. YERLY JR.

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