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837 Central Park Avenue
Lakeport, CA 95453
February 28, 2000

The Honorable Donna Shalala
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Shalala:

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed weakening of labeling requirements for irradiated food that is being considered by the Food and Drug Administration. I strongly believe that it is my right to know if the food I eat has been treated with radiation.

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. In addition, irradiated food that is not packaged should be accompanied by a poster in plain view of where it is displayed for sale. Labels are required by law to be truthful and not misleading to the customer. Only clear, honest and permanent labeling is acceptable for irradiated foods. Also we should be able to have a choice about being able to purchase food that has not been irradiated.

I urge you to defend the consumer's right to know in this important decision-making process.

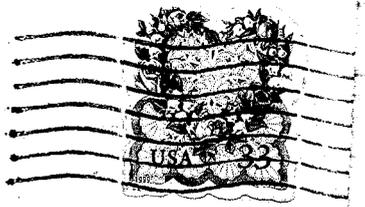
Sincerely,

Miriam Root

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Mrs. Miriam Root
837 Central Park Ave.
Lakeport, CA 95453



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