



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

01-580

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

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March 8, 2001

Mr. Mark Worth
Senior Researcher
Public Citizen
215 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Mr. Worth:

Thank you for your January 26 letter in which you asked to participate in a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) focus group to address food irradiation labeling. I apologize for the delay in responding.

FDA has given much thought to assembling focus groups. We are currently researching our specific needs for such groups and other efforts to get useful public input on the issue of food irradiation labeling. I would encourage you to contact Dr. Alan Levy of our Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition's (CFSAN) Division of Market Studies, who is spearheading these efforts. Dr. Levy can be reached at 202-205-9448.

We appreciate your thoughts and concerns and have forwarded your letter both to CFSAN and our Dockets Management Branch to be incorporated in the open docket (98N-1038) on this issue, which is the standard procedure for handling comments on a proposed rule.

Sincerely,

Indya P. Gordon
Policy Analyst
Office of the Executive Secretariat

cc:
Alan Levy
Dockets Management Branch

98N-1038

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