

**Re: Docket No. 98N-1038, Irradiation of Food, Processing and Handling of Food**

170 Good Counsel Drive  
Mankato, MN. 56001-3138  
April 25, 1999

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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

To Whom It May Concern:

A group of us wish to indicate our strong support for required labeling of all irradiated food. Initially the FDA came to the conclusion that irradiation is a "material fact" about food processing and that labeling should make this fact known to the consumer. It is still a "material fact" about food processing so the need for labeling doesn't change either.

It is acknowledged that irradiation does have an effect on storage qualities and may cause some nutrient losses which, especially in most vegetables or fruits, always obvious to the consumer when the product is purchased. Spoilage characteristics sometimes change. Meats also undergo chemical changes, some of which could be harmful.

Our request is that the labeling be so clear that every consumer can be certain about whether or not his or her purchase has been irradiated. Please require the use of the words "irradiated food", "treated with irradiation" or something equally unequivocal. The radura should be prominently placed.

We also urge you to use the Internet to share with the public the comments you are receiving; it will help us to know who is participating in this process. This is of interest to us. Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Mary Joet Bambenek*  
*Marilyn Bambenek*  
*Mary Leabel Kathleen*  
*Rita Steedon<sup>5</sup> ND*  
*Mary Chyllis Bendel*

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Rita Studer  
170 Good Counsel Drive  
Mankato, MN, 56001-3138



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