

6314 Tone Drive.

Bethesda MD

February, 23/99

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Commissioner Jane E. Henney, MD,
FDA (HFE-88)
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville MD 20857

Dear Commissioner Henney:

I agree with the FDA decision to allow foods to be irradiated: it kills bacteria; there is an extended shelf life; and it only costs \$0.5 per pound. These are just a few of the many reasons that explain why food should be irradiated. Also, I'm not sure about you, but I don't want bacteria in my food, or take the risk of dying anytime I eat something.

I think that the most important advantage irradiation gives us is that it kills bacteria and insects. One time that it would have helped was during the 1993 fast food restaurant crises. If they had been using irradiated food, none of it would have ever happened. We would also have less problems with food-borne illnesses and be able to buy foods from other countries without the risk of bringing foreign illnesses.

Another important reason to irradiate food is it will have an extended shelf life. If we had a famine due to war, locusts, etc. the irradiated food would last up to 12 years and by that time the famine would hopefully be over. We would also spend less money because we would not throw away bad food.

The third main reason to irradiate food is that it costs less. How? You might ask, well the answer is simple, compare prices with irradiation and doctor's bills. Irradiation only costs \$0.5 but doctor's bills can cost \$1000s.

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You could donate the saved money to the needy and everyone would be happy.

The above paragraphs, in my opinion, perfectly state why we should buy irradiated food. I see no argument against irradiation that is large enough to compare with these reasons for irradiation. That's why I'm SURE we SHOULD irradiate food!!!

Sincerely,

Fred Barton

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