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3/29/99
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Dockets Mgmt. Branch
FDA
5630 Fishers Ln
Rockville, MD 20852

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing to you concerning Docket #98N-1038, Irradiation in the production, processing, and handling of food. As a consumer of FDA labeled foods, I find it imperative to know if foods have been irradiated or contain irradiated ingredients. The FDA should retain the current labeling law, the current terminology of "treated with radiation," and the use of the radura symbol on

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all irradiated whole foods. Irradiation is a "material fact," and should therefore be disclosed clearly.

Consumers have a right to know if this process has been used on their food. A large, readily visible label should be clearly displayed on the front of irradiated food packages. Also, prominent information displays containing the radura symbol should be used. The absence of a clear label would be misleading, because irradiation destroys vitamins and changes taste, texture, and storage qualities.

This technology is new and widespread public health effects need to be studied. The FDA's labeling requirement must not expire.

Sincerely,
Sarah Minick

Jim and Sarah Minick
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