112 N. 6th St.
Mankato, Mn. 56001
April 12, 1999

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

6400 '99 APR 16 A10:26

RE: Docket # 98N-1038 - "Irradiation in the Production, Processing and Handling of Food"

To whom it may concern:

I am of the opinion that the FDA should retain the current labeling law. I also think the terms "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation" along with the radura symbol should be kept on foods. Even if the food is sold in bulk this information should be kept near the containers.

The FDA originally concluded that irradiation is a "material fact" about food processing and therefore should be disclosed. That fact remains, so I believe labeling should also remain.

Even if irradiation is considered safe, it remains relatively new as a food "prolonger". I don't think the results from long-term usage can yet be known.

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I believe the label should be large enough to be easily seen by the consumer. I also think it should be on the front of the package. I think the requirement for irradiation disclosure, including both label and radura should not be allowed to expire.

As a retired science teacher, I continue to be interested in many areas connected with science and health.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Joan Schmitz

Ms. Joan Schmitz
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