4.16.99

Dear Members of the FDA

I do not want to see the current wording of the radiation disclosure statement revised. I want to continue to see prominent labeling, the use of the terms "irradiation" or "irradiated" and the use of the radura symbol.

I do not want such labeling requirements to expire at a specified date in the future. I want these labeling requirements to always be used as long as this practice of altering food continues.

I do not want proposed alternative terms such as "cold pasteurization" and "electronic pasteurization" to be used. They are misleading.

Also any absence of a statement would be misleading because irradiation destroys vitamins and causes changes in sensory and spoilage qualities that are not ~~at~~ obvious or expected by the consumer.

I buy whole, organic, fresh fruits and vegetables as much as I can as the most self-responsible thing I can do for my health. When I can't buy organic I want to know what type of conventional food I am buying, especially if it is irradiated, because that eliminates the vitamins I am buying the fruits and vegetables for in the first place. I and all other Americans deserve to know and be informed and educated about what we are buying. Please don't take that right away from us.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Lyons

98N-1038

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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
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Re: Docket #98N-1038, "Irradiation in the Production, Processing & Handling of Food)

20857/0001