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May 3, 1999

Dockets Management Branch
(HFA-305)
Docket # 98N-1038
FDA
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear FDA:

I urge you to require labeling of ALL irradiated foods - that is, conspicuous labeling, not labeling in tiny letters.

Also, the FDA should require signs on bins for irradiated bulk produce. The labeling requirement should be permanent, just like other labeling.

Irradiation can change many characteristics of food, including nutrition, texture and taste. I believe that it is unhealthy and shouldn't be allowed - but if you do allow irradiation, the least you can do is properly inform consumers so we can make informed choices. After all, the Codex labeling requirements require that

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all irradiated foods be labeled as such. No euphemisms, such as "electronic pasteurization" or "cold pasteurization" should be allowed. The FDA is supposed to be interested in protecting the rights of consumers, not the profits of the food industry.

Sincerely,

Patrizia Murphy

Ms. Patricia Murphy
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