5-16-99

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

4601 '99 MAY 20 AM 10:39

Focus — Docket # 98N-1038 regarding irradiation in the production, processing and handling of food.

I have worked for over 20 years as a registered nurse and am currently self-employed in the field of natural health care. There are many economic factors involved in the food industry from production, handling and marketing. Food irradiation must therefore involve economic gain for many.

My focus has been on living as close to nature as possible, being as physically, psychologically and spiritually healthy as I can be. We all have a right to know how our food is grown, handled, and presented to the public:

1) Clear and correct labeling is imperative - if food is irradiated - the label must state that fact clearly!

2) There should be no expiration date for such labeling.

Irradiated food may has fewer bacteria but it is far less nutritious and may even be harmful. I look at my grandchildren - I want them to live in a cleaner, healthier world.

Sincerely,

Barbara Starr, RN, MSN, M.T.
(address on reverse side)

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