4313 Belford Road
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28314
JUL 19 PM 12:04
July 12, 1999

Mr. William Hubbard
Dockets Management Branch (HFA 305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Re: Docket #98N-1038: Irradiation in the production, processing, and handling of food

Dear Mr. Hubbard,

I am writing to express my concern over the use of radiation in food processing, possibly in the near future. It is my understanding that this procedure is supposed to kill bacteria which could be harmful or fatal to humans. On the surface, this seems to be a good idea. However, I question the safety of using radiation in the processing of any food products. How much research has been completed concerning this process? How do we know that there won't be radiation-related health problems five, ten, or twenty years down the

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road? I, for one, do not think this is a good idea at all.

If the "powers-that-be" go forth with this decision, it is imperative that the general public be adequately informed. All food that is processed in this manner must be clearly marked and easy for the consumer to understand. This does not include veiled euphemisms like "cold pasteurization." I want to know what cold pasteurization <u>really</u> means. Food packages should be labelled with the phrase "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation." The "radura" symbol should also be conspicuously displayed. Anything less is totally unacceptable.

As a public school teacher, I come into contact with hundreds of individuals each year. You can be sure that, if necessary, I will spread the word about our government's attempt to sneak one by us once again.

A sincerely concerned citizen,

Gwen Turner

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4313 Belford Road
Fayetteville, NC 28314

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