July 15, 1999

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Re: Docket # 98N-1038

To whom it may concern:

I want the FDA to label all irradiated foods with prominent, clear labels, using the radura symbol and the terms "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation" only. Other terminology would be unnecessarily confusing, because all the scientific literature and media coverage of irradiated foods uses only the term "Irradiation". Irradiated whole produce should be prominently labeled on the boxes and on a nearby sign in the market. I also want to be informed as to whether prepared food I purchase from restaurants and other food service suppliers has been irradiated.

As a consumer, I would be misled by the absence of a label. I rely on whole foods such as fruits and vegetables to provide essential vitamins and other nutrients in my diet. Irradiation causes nutrient losses I will not recognize or expect in fresh, whole foods

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There is considerable evidence that processing by irradiation causes chemical changes in foods that are not evident and are potentially hazardous. In

addition, there are no long-term studies on the effects of humans fed a diet heavy in irradiated foods. Labeling would allow me to decide for myself if I want ~~to~~ choose the convenience and enhanced storage qualities of some irradiated foods along with the potential health risks.

Because this technology has not been used on a wide scale before, without labels scientists would not be able to study the adverse effects of irradiated foods, if they exist. Therefore, I request that the current labeling requirement be retained permanently.

Sincerely,

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