7-14-99

To Whom It May Concern,

5246 '99 JUL 20 P1:48

I am writing in regards to Docket # 98N-1038, "Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food". I take seriously what I put into my body, the food & drink I choose, because I want to be healthy, and I don't believe that anything treated by irradiation is good for me. But how can I make the right choice if food and drink is not going to be properly labeled? It's that simple!

I am asking you to support strict requirements that all food & drink sold in this country be clearly, unambiguously and legibly labeled to indicate any ingredients that have been treated by irradiation, if this is true. Also, the "radura" symbol of irradiated food should be clearly visible on all packaging as well, if appropriate. As for ~~unpack~~ unpackaged food & drink, a prominent sign to indicate the above mentioned should be displayed where the said food & drink are for sale.

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I don't believe that my suggestions are extreme or unnecessary. Rather, I believe that all consumers in this country, including those visiting from other countries, have the right to choose what they are going to put into their bodies, and labeling

98N 1038

and signage that I am suggesting would help to make that choice clearer, easier and safer. We ~~all~~ each have but one body in which we are gifted to live our lives, and eating & drinking responsibly, knowledgeably, and safely is to be taken seriously. Food and drink that contain ingredients that have been treated by irradiation may pose <u>serious</u> risks to our respective health, and <u>noone</u> would be immune to these risks & dangers, including you! Please do what is right, and do what you can to ensure ~~that~~ labeling requirements on our food & drink are strengthened, and not weakened. Our precious lives deserve nothing less!

Sincerely,
Russell M Pirkot

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