Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305) 7-14-99
Food and Drug Administration 5141 '99 JUL 20 P12:13
5630 Fishers Lane
Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

FDA,

This letter is concerning Docket No. 98n-1038. As a consumer I heartily reject the possible outcome of passing this into law. As paying consumers we have a right to this labeling being prominent and conspicuous.

The food my family and I injest is important to us, we expect a high quality. That high quality includes the presence of vitamins that we rely on to have a healthy and balanced diet. Irradiation can damage these vitamins and ultimately may have long term effects we have not yet been able to study. Yes, "e-beam" irradiation is said to be safer than Cesium or Cobalt based radiation, however, there are documented cases of ebeams going out of control and killing cancer patients. ("E-beam Irradiation: Cancer is cancer; Journal of Food and Water) This article also states that free radicals can be formed through Irradiation. Do you want to EAT FREE RADICALS??

There is another reason to conspicuously label irradiated foods. If vendors treat all foods the same - some irradiated and some not - then random spoilage will occur based on the difference. This Random spoilage will surely decrease the overall food quality and safety.

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98N 1038

Please do not pass this docket.

Sincerely, Megan Bates Gaudre

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