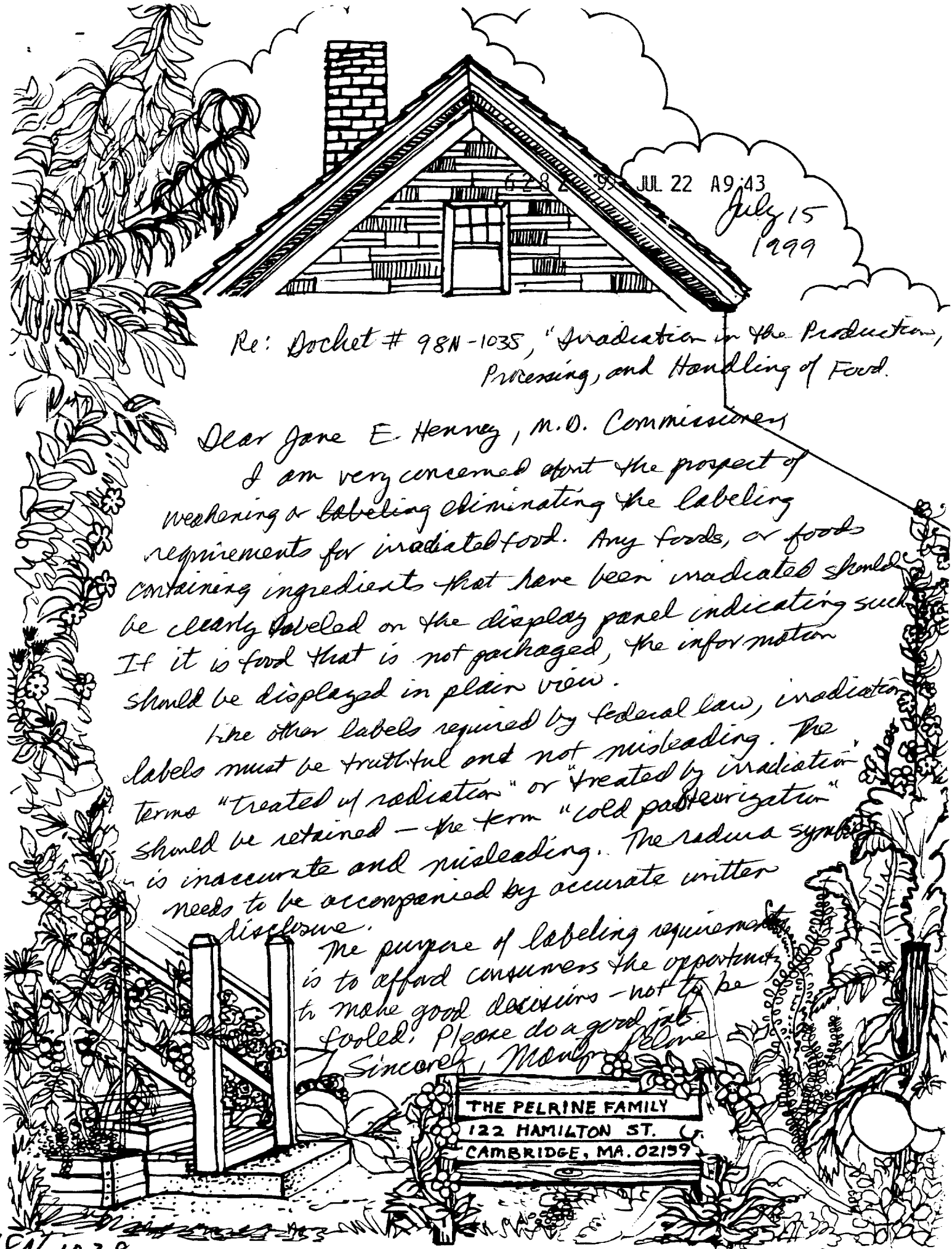

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July 15
1999

Re: Docket # 98N-1035, "Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food.

Dear Jane E. Henney, M.D. Commissioner

I am very concerned about the prospect of weakening or eliminating the labeling requirements for irradiated food. Any foods, or foods containing ingredients that have been irradiated should be clearly labeled on the display panel indicating such. If it is food that is not packaged, the information should be displayed in plain view.

Like other labels required by federal law, irradiation labels must be truthful and not misleading. The terms "treated w/ radiation" or "treated by irradiation" should be retained — the term "cold pasteurization" is inaccurate and misleading. The radura symbol needs to be accompanied by accurate written disclosure.

The purpose of labeling requirements is to afford consumers the opportunity to make good decisions — not to be fooled. Please do a good job.

Sincerely, Monica Pelrine

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