Jane E. Henney, M.D. Commissioner
FDA
5600 Fishers Lane, Rm. 14-71
Rockville MD 20852

Judith Martin
15530 Runyon Rd SE
Rainier WA 98576-9715

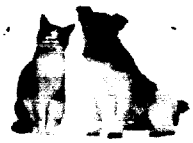
July 16, 1999

re: Docket No. 98N-1038:
"Irradiation in the Production, Processing and Handling of Food."

6326 '99 JUL 22 A9:49

Dear Dr. Henney:

I am extremely concerned about the prospect of weakening or eliminating the labeling requirements for irradiated food. Any foods, or any foods containing ingredients that have been treated by irradiation, should be clearly labeled with a written statement on the principal display panel indicating such treatment. The statement should be easy to read and placed in close proximity to the name of the food and accompanied by the radura, the international symbol of irradiated food. If the food is not packaged, this information should be clearly displayed on a poster in plain view and adjacent to where the product is displayed for sale.



Member of The Humane Society of the United States

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... Like other labels required by federal law, irradiation labels must be truthful and not misleading. Proposals to use euphemistic phrases like "cold pasteurization" are inappropriate because pasteurization is an entirely different process involving rapid heating and cooling. The terms "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation" should be retained because they accurately portray the irradiation process. The radura symbol, without written disclosure, is not adequate.

Consumers have a right-to-know how their food has been processed. Please ensure that labeling requirements are strengthened, not weakened.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,

Judith Martin

Member of The Humane Society of the United States

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Rainier WA 98576

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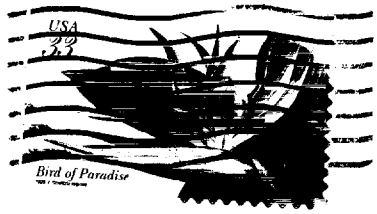

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Dr. Jane E. Henney, M.D. Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 14-71
Rockville, MD 20852

20852/1750#

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