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Donna Shalala, Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

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Dear Secretary Shalala:

I'm deeply concerned about the possible weakening of labeling requirements for irradiated food that is is being considered by the Food and Drug Administration. It is my belief that it is my right to to know if the food I eat has been irradiated. Food products undergo chemical changes after exposure to radioactive isotopes. These cosmetic and nutritional changes in foods warrant disclosure on a prominent place place on the package. In addition, food that is not packaged should be accompanied by a poster in plain view of where it is displayed for sale. Labels are required by law to be truthful and not misleading to the customer. Only clear, honest and permanent labeling is acceptable for irradiated foods.

I hope that you will defend the consumer's right to know in this vital decision making process.

Sincerely yours,

Helen M. Stalley

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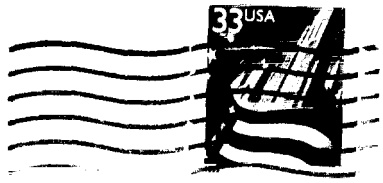

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