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dedicated to preserving native medicinal plants

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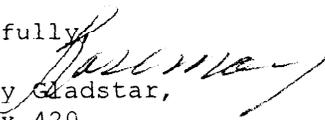
Dear Dr. Schwetz,

I am quite distressed that the FDA would even think to weaken or loosen the labeling laws concerning irradiate food, especially considering what the response has been already to this issue. I am one of thousands of concerned citizens who is urging you to maintain the current labeling law for irradiated foods, which requires irradiated whole foods be labeled clearly labeled "Treated by Irradiation" or "Treated with "Radiation." This labeling needs to be in large enough letters so that elderly people can see it and it needs to be displayed prominently. I believe that the American people have a right to know what their food has been treated with, especially concerning something that can potentially be harmful. Shame on these big businesses for wanting to introduce yet another substance to our food that may make it potentially harmful. We've allowed toxic pesticides, fungicides and hormones to our food chain. Now we want to add irradiating.

The American people have spoken loudly and clearly on this issue. As I'm sure you know, 98.2 percent of Americans responding to a recent FDA survey said they wanted the current law maintained or strengthened to include the labeling of irradiated ingredients. And, in recent focus groups, participants unanimously opposed industry-backed euphemisms such as "electronically pasteurized" and "cold pasteurized," calling these phrases "sneaky," "deceptive" and "a lie."

There is simply no room to wiggle here. For the sake of honesty and integrity, any food that has been exposed to ionizing radiation must be labeled accordingly. Any attempts to hide, blur or deceive should be rejected by your agency. If you plan to do otherwise, I would like to hear from you and want to know your reason for backing something that the American public clearly does not want.

Respectfully,

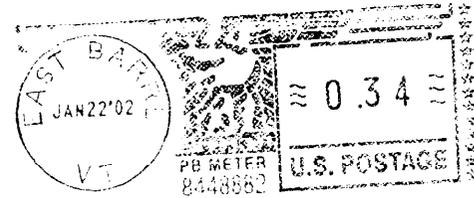
  
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