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The National Society of Arts and Letters

cf National Art Chairman
Mia Tschampel

1600 W. Turtle Dove Lane
Tucson, AZ 85742
1 520- 297-5136

attn: Secretary Tommy Thompson
US Dept of Health & Human Services
WASH. D.C.

November 8, 2001

Dear Tommy Thompson:

Please know I am opposed to any further FOOD IRRADIATION approvals — especially for shellfish and ready-to-eat foods — until a truly comprehensive testing program on the HEALTH EFFECTS of irradiated foods is pursued carefully.

A wide range of health problems have been revealed by past experiments, in animals that ate irradiated food — i.e., premature death, rare cancers, genetic damage, reproductive problems including still births, fatal internal bleeding, nutritional deficiencies, and organ damage.

Recently, a unique chemical formed in irradiated food, called 2-DCB was found to cause genetic and cellular damage, in both rats AND HUMAN CELLS.

Thus, aren't there too many unanswered questions about the Safety and Wholesomeness of irradiated foods, to justify adding additional food types for irradiation?

Also, the companies irradiating foods use a deceptive word, "PASTEURIZED", in promotional literature and television, radio, and internet advertising. This is NASTY and deceptive: can you stop them from deceiving the public? It is Sure Beam of SAN DIEGO, and Hawaii Pride, plus 3 other U.S. based food irradiation companies who do this federally illegal deceptive advertising.

Please, please, investigate.

Thank you.

Sincerely, Mia Tschampel

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Mia Tschampel
1600 W Turtle Dove Ln
Tucson, AZ 85742-8948

Attn: Secretary Tommy Thompson
US Dept of Health & Human Services
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Wash D.C. 20201