To Whom it May Concern P3:23

I am urging you to halt implementation of the new egg irradiation regulation program and that a public hearing be held in relation to this issue. I ask that you consider the following arguments.

1) Irradiation of eggs is an intervention strategy which fails to address primary causes of Salmonella eteritidis - contaminated eggs.

2) Crowded concentrations of hens in confinement during the past 40 years have been linked to the development of a specific type of Salmonella enteritidis

3) Irradiation of eggs cannot substitute for sanitation, or for recommended packaging, refrigeration, cooking and the sewing of eggs.

4) Irradiation cannot cure the ills caused by forced molting (the prolonged starvation of hens)

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5) According to a News Release published by the health research group Public Citizen, radiation "treatment" of eggs will deplete vitamins, disrupt proteins and mask

factory farm filth.

6) It appears that for the egg industry, an attractive feature of irradiation is its ability to extend the shelf life of eggs by reducing bacterial spoilage. I.e. old and irradiated eggs can sit there a week or so longer with "fresh" stamped on the carton.

I ask that you strongly consider the above arguments before making any long-term decisions.

Respectfully,

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