

To: The Honorable Donna Shalala
US Dept of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

1308 '00 JAN -3 AIO :38

Re: Labeling Foods Irradiated in Production, Processing, or Handling

Date: December 1999

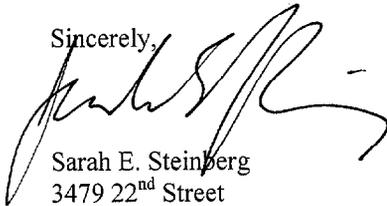
Dear Secretary Shalala:

I am concerned about the proposed weakening of irradiated food labeling requirements that is being considered by the Food and Drug Administration. It is the right of all consumers to know if food has been treated with radiation.

It is my understanding that food products undergo chemical changes after exposure to radioactive isotopes, resulting in both cosmetic and nutritional changes. I am not interested in eating food that has been irradiated, especially since there are no studies showing what effect consumption of irradiated food has on human and animal health over the long term. However, as long as food is being irradiated, such treatment must be disclosed on a prominent place on packaging. In addition, unpackaged irradiated food must be accompanied by a poster in plain view, close to the food 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.

We are all consumers, and an issue such as this one touches all of us. Please do the right thing, and defend the consumer's right to know in this important decision-making process.

Sincerely,



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