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March 3, 2001

Bernard A. Schwetz, DVM, Ph.D
Acting Principal Deputy Commissioner
US Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fisher Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

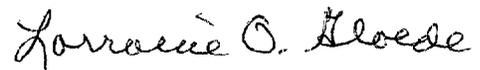
Dear Dr. Schwetz:

I understand that a rider was attached to the 2001 Agriculture Appropriations Bill in which the clear labels on irradiated food would be replaced with a new and vague euphemism like "Cold Pasteurized" or "Electronically Pasteurized". This language is designed to serve the food and irradiation industries and to confuse, rather than inform, the public. "Irradiation" is a commonly understood term that the FDA should not discard for a deceptive substitute.

Irradiation may well improve food safety, but it should not substitute for good sanitation. Whether you want to buy irradiated foods to protect a child or aging parent from E. Coli bacteria or whether you want to avoid irradiated foods because of changes in taste, smell, texture, nutritional value, or the lack of long-term studies on its safety, confusing labels will reduce our ability to make that choice.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



(Mrs.) Lorraine O. Gloede

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