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Commissioner Jane E. Henney, M.D.  
FDA (HFE-88)  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Commissioner Henney:

I disagree with the FDA's decision to allow foods to be irradiated. I think since irradiation poses a health risk we shouldn't approve the use of it. Besides, the majority of consumers are opposed to irradiation too.

People think that irradiation prevents bacteria and food from spoiling. Well, it does, but only in the beginning. The St. Louis Post Dispatch write, "Like pasteurization, the process kills bacteria, but if the food is exposed to bacteria after irradiation, the bacteria can multiply and cause the food to spoil." The St. Louis Post Dispatch also says, "Like most perishable food products, irradiated products must still be properly refrigerated, cooked and served." Besides, if you buy food that is irradiated, you still must serve the product normally.

The use of irradiated products is still questionable, and it also costs more money. Some other articles including the St. Louis Post Dispatch say, "Irradiation adds about a nickel to the cost of a pound of hamburger." USA Weekend says, "Meat processors estimate irradiation could add 3 to 6 cents per pound to the retail cost." As I said before, extra money for a product that you still have to keep properly. What a waste!

We also know that irradiation poses health risks too. USA Weekend says, "They contend the process itself poses health risks... animals fed with irradiated foods lost weight and had miscarriages, and that irradiation damages vitamins in food." Health and Fitness wrote, "The basis for establishing safety is not absolute safety. It's reasonable safety."

For the above three reasons I feel it is very important to not use irradiation. With the risks and extra money involved, it is not worth it. I, like many others am very concerned with nutrition. But with the discovery of less to no nutrition in irradiated food, it is no something I feel comfortable with.

Sincerely,  
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