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5405 '01 MAY 18 P2:02

May 11, 2001

Dr. Bernard Schwetz  
US FDA  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20852  
Re: Docket No. 00N-1351

98N-1038

Dear Dr. Schwetz,

I am writing to ~~express~~ my concern about the possible weakening of label requirements for irradiated food. I believe that it is the consumers right to know whether the food that she is purchasing and feeding to her family has been treated by radiation.

92% of the public agree with me that they would like to be informed whether the food that they purchase has been exposed to radiation. 77% of Americans do not want to buy food that has be irradiated.

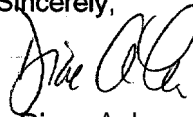
As a physician, I am concerned that exposure to irradiation might degrade vital 'nutrients and turn otherwise harmless compounds into carcinogens. I am also concerned about the generation of more nuclear waste and its disposal. I am aware of the preservative properties of irradiation but feel that current food-handing guidelines, when followed, are adequate.

I also find the symbol that designates irradiated food confusing. It looks like a symbol for organic food!

A much clearer symbol, that portrays our concept of radiation, needs to be generated.

I thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Diane A. Lowe, M.D.

98N-1038

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