

May 2, 2001

Dear Acting Commissioner Schwetz;

I want irradiated foods to be clearly labeled "IRRADIATION" is a commonly understood term that the FDA should not discard for a deceptive substitute.

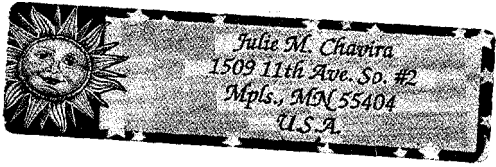
I am not alone in my feelings. An independent opinion poll in 1999, commissioned by the American Association of Retired Persons and the Center for Science in the Public Interest, shows overwhelming support for the term "Treated by irradiation," instead of "Electronically Pasteurized" or "Cold Pasteurized". Just as consumers want label information about "dolphin-safe tuna" or "low fat" foods they also want clear information on irradiated foods.

Please don't change the current sensible label. Informed choice is part of a free market economy. Some shoppers may want to buy irradiated foods because they believe these foods have lower pathogen risks. Others, including myself, will avoid these foods (irradiated) because of changes in taste, smell, texture and nutrition and concerns about negative effects from radiation. The FDA should not stand in the way of consumers making those choices by putting confusing new labels on irradiated food.

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.
Sincerely,
Julia M. Chavira



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