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Bernard A. Schwetz, D.V.M., Ph. D.  
Acting Principal Deputy Commissioner  
U. S. Food and Drug Administration  
Dockets Management Branch  
5600 Fisher Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857

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Dear Acting Commissioner Schwetz,

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

I am not the only person who feels this way. An independent opinion poll, commissioned by the AARP and the Center for Science in the Public Interest, showed overwhelming support for the term, "Treated by Irradiation" instead of "Electronically Pasteurized" or "Cold Pastuerized". In the same way that consumers want label information that clearly states "Dolphin-safe Tuna" or "rBGH Free" on the package, they also want a clear label that describes that the food has been processed using irradiation.

Please do not change the current sensible label. Informed choice is part of a free-market economy. Some shoppers want to buy irradiated foods because they believe that these foods will have a lower pathogen risk. Others want to avoid irradiated foods because of changes in taste, smell and texture, or due to concerns about nutritional value and negative effects from radiation.

The FDA should not allow consumers to be duped by misleading food labeling. This leads to public mistrust of the FDA's work. Whether or not the public wishes to consume irradiated foods is an issue that should be decided by the public. We cannot make an informed choice if we do not know whether the foods we are consuming are, in fact, irradiated.

Thank you for your attention.  
Sincerely,

*Liana Paredes*

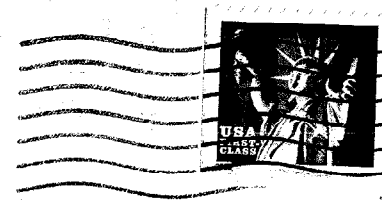
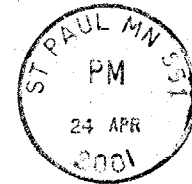
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