106 Rainsburg Mtn. Rd.
Bedford, PA 15522
Dec. 16, 2002

Livestock and Seed Programs
Agriculture and Marketing Service
US Dept. of Agriculture
Stop 0249, Room 2092-S
Washington, DC 20250-0249

Dear Director:

This letter is to speak out against the idea of using irradiated food in the National School Lunch Program. There seems to be many unanswered questions about the safety of irradiated food, as well as whether it's nutritionally sound. Irradiation of foods seems to me to be a slick way of getting away with sloppy sanitary conditions, especially in meat plants.

Until, there is a clear reason, and sound scientific studies about this issue, I urge you and all government agencies to flat our refuse any requests. Do not place our young children in the situation of being guinea pigs. I speak from very personal experience, having one grandchild with many allergies, and one grandchild recovered from liver cancer. They do not need anymore questionable toxics in their environment and food.

Thank you for your attention to my concerns.

Sincerely,

Janet Shaffer

Janet Ganter Shaffer

Copy: Dr. Patrick Crawford, Superintendent
Bedford Area School District