2412 Carta Court #3
Sacramento, CA 95825

March 11, 2003

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

Greetings Livestock and Seed Programs:

I am greatly concerned about the potential use of irradiated foods in our National School Lunch Programs. As with any new scientific discovery or process the data must be accumulated and honestly evaluated. The long term health issues that could arise from the consumption of irradiated foods has not been studied or proven to be safe as of this time. I strongly object to students in schools being used as a testing ground for irradiated foods.

What we do know is that irradiation changes the chemical balance in foods. At this time it is suspected, and possibly known to some, that these new chemicals cause cancer and birth defects, as well as degrades the nutritional content. Since our nation's children are already suffering from poor diets and obesity, it would be criminal to serve them food that could potential harm them, as well as have a low nutritional content.

In addition, I feel that teachers, parents, and children have a right to know where the meals being consumed in schools are produced, their ingredients, and how they are prepared.

Please do not let the meat industry and those industries that support irradiation force their unproven methods on our society. I do not care to see generations suffer under deception and lies for the sake of money, as many had to suffer under the deception of the tobacco industry.

Sincerely,

Heather Hobson
former teacher
concerned citizen