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

To Those Concerned:

My children are grown, but I do have six grandchildren. As a concerned Grandparent, I am in favor of irradiated foods for the National School Lunch Program.

I have seen people who were ill with food-borne diseases and it is not very pleasant. I believe that if any of the anti-irradiation people would be infected with any one of these diseases, they would change their views about irradiation. It can be devastating.

When I was in college in the early 1950's, we went on a field trip in New Jersey to an electric plant. In the special projects room, we viewed for the first time the amazing appliance called a "microwave" oven. We were told that it was a safe and fast way to cook foods. It was fascinating, but some people at that time thought that it was dangerous to eat food cooked in that oven. Well, almost every home now has a microwave oven and everyone relies on it and uses it without any worries. The technology for irradiated foods is basically the same. Once the food is irradiated, it is safe to eat with no residual on the foods. And it makes the food safe to eat.

My doctor is a leading stomach specialist. We once discussed irradiating foods when there was a bad outbreak of a food-borne disease. He said that if you presented him with 2 plates of chicken - with one being the irradiated chicken and the other non-irradiated, he would always pick the irradiated chicken. He said he treats people who get sick and knows how terrible it can be.

I want the food served to my grandchildren to be safe for them. This is one less thing for parents to worry about in this very complex world.

Irradiated food is safe to eat and will someday be just as accepted as pasteurized milk.

PLEASE ALLOW THE GOVERNMENT TO BUY IRRADIATED FOOD FOR THE SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM.

Sincerely,

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