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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 24 December 2020 4:19 PM
To: submissions
Subject: Submission on A1193 Irradiation of all fresh fruit and vegetables'

Categories: [REDACTED]

To: Food Standards Australia New Zealand

Subject line: Submission RE: A1193: Irradiation as a phytosanitary measure for all fresh fruit and vegetables

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a scientist and food microbiologist I do not agree with the approval of irradiation for all fresh fruits and vegetables. There are alternatives to irradiation which are less harmful for people and animals. This technology is not one I would like to be used for foods for humans or animals. I am concerned that irradiated foods, if allowed will not be adequately labelled. I want to know this, so I can avoid these foods if they are on the shelves.

I am concerned about the long term effect of eating irradiated foods. Will people suffer from reduced nutrients in their diet over time? Australian soils are already nutrient poor. The possible reduction of nutrients in the foods we eat, will cause more health effects than necessary. Irradiation has been shown to deplete vitamin C, vitamin A, proteins, essential fatty acids and other nutrients in food and has been linked to health problems such as nutritional deficiencies and immune system disorders.

Irradiation will not eliminate the use of toxic chemicals and pesticides in fruit and vegetable production and will just be used in conjunction with these and other industrial food processes. This is very concerning.

A1193 does not assure me that irradiated foods and their packaging will be individually labelled as "treated with radiation" or "irradiated" as they should be. They may be marketed as "fresh" though they are heavily processed.

For these reasons I call on you to reject A1193 and to rescind all previous irradiation approvals. I look forward to hearing your response to my concerns.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

*(please do not use my name if this submission is published)

