

Original sponsor: Kerttula

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 33 (Judiciary)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION
5 Relating to the labeling of irradiated
6 food.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 WHEREAS the exposure of food to radiation has been promoted by the
9 United States government for many years to prolong the shelf life of food
10 by killing organisms, such as insects, mold, and bacteria, that damage
11 food; and

12 WHEREAS over the past two decades pork, potatoes, wheat, and more than
13 60 spices have been approved for radiation by the United States Food and
14 Drug Administration but the irradiation process has not been widely used in
15 this country; and

16 WHEREAS on April 18, 1986, the Food and Drug Administration extended
17 its approval of irradiation to all fruits and vegetables and required the
18 labeling of food at the wholesale and retail levels with the words "TREATED
19 BY RADIATION" and a picture of the international symbol for radiation, a
20 stylized tulip; and

21 WHEREAS the labeling requirements do not extend to food products that
22 contain irradiated ingredients, and the "TREATED BY RADIATION" labeling
23 requirement is due to expire in 1988 before irradiated foods arrive in
24 large quantities on grocery store shelves; and

25 WHEREAS the Food and Drug Administration states flatly that after
26 reviewing all pertinent data it has not found a reason to be concerned
27 about the safety of consuming food that has been irradiated within the
28 dosage levels specified by federal regulations; and

29 WHEREAS, aside from concern about the reliability of the Food and Drug

1 Administration studies, American consumers are entitled to know whether the
2 foods, and the components of the food, that they purchase have been irradi-
3 ated so that they can make their food choices accordingly; and

4 WHEREAS the long history of stringent labeling requirements for the
5 chemical additives and ingredients in food provides ample precedent for the
6 labeling of irradiated foods as irradiated;

7 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
8 the United States Food and Drug Administration to adopt regulations requir-
9 ing food whose components have been irradiated to be labeled as "irra-
10 diated" and to cancel the expiration date for the current labeling regula-
11 tions.

12 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald
13 Reagan, President of the United States; the Honorable Frank E. Young,
14 Commissioner of the United States Food and Drug Administration; and to the
15 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and
16 the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delega-
17 tion in Congress.