

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1989

Source

SJR 23

Legislative
Resolve No.

20



Relating to the labeling of irradiated food.

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS the Food and Drug Administration presently requires that certain foods at the wholesale level be labeled with the words "TREATED WITH RADIATION--DO NOT IRRADIATE AGAIN" or "TREATED BY IRRADIATION--DO NOT IRRADIATE AGAIN"; and

WHEREAS the Food and Drug Administration has extended the retail wording requirements until only April 18, 1990; and

WHEREAS the removal of the retail wording requirements may occur before irradiated foods arrive in large quantities on grocery store shelves; and

WHEREAS the Food and Drug Administration states flatly that after reviewing all pertinent data it has not found a reason to

be concerned about the safety of consuming food that has been irradiated within the dosage levels specified by federal regulations; and

WHEREAS, aside from concern about the reliability of the Food and Drug Administration studies, American consumers are entitled to know whether the foods, and the components of the food, that they purchase have been irradiated so that they can make their food choices accordingly; and

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the United States Food and Drug Administration to adopt regulations requiring food that contains components that have been irradiated to be labeled as irradiated and to adopt permanently the current labeling requirements for irradiated food under 21 CFR 179.26(c)(1) and (2); and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that this resolution constitutes the official position and commentary of the Alaska State Legislature on 21 CFR 179.26(c)(1) and (2), which relate to the labeling of irradiated foods.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United States; the Honorable Frank E. Young, Commissioner of the United States Food and Drug Administration; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.