



August 3, 2016

Bruno Rodrigue
Office of Legislative and Regulatory Modernization
Policy, Planning and International Affairs Directorate
Health Canada
Address Locator: 3105A
1500 Scott Street, Holland Cross, Tower B, 5th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9

Dear Bruno,

Re: Proposed amendments to the Food and Drug Regulations to allow irradiation of beef

The Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed amendments to the Food and Drug Regulations that would allow the irradiation of fresh and frozen ground beef as a food safety tool. BFO represents the 19,000 beef producers in Ontario by advocating in the areas of policy planning, industry development and research, and domestic and export market development.

BFO is supportive of making irradiated beef available to Canadian consumers. As a scientifically proven food safety tool that has a strong level of public support, the approval of irradiation for use on Canadian beef would improve food safety in Canada while satisfying consumer demand for food safety choices.

The safety of irradiated food has been endorsed by many groups including the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The procedure is in normal use in 50 countries, and irradiated beef has been available to US consumers for the past fifteen years. The Consumer Association of Canada, along with the majority of both Canadian consumers and beef farmers, support the availability of irradiated food in Canada.

Importantly, the ability of irradiation to reduce E.coli O157 is well established. When combined with food safety interventions already in use, irradiation could essentially eliminate E.coli-related illnesses associated with ground beef. This, in BFO's eyes, is reason enough to support the availability of irradiated beef to Canadians.

Irradiation is already in use to improve the safety of other foods in Canada. Extending the use of this process to include ground beef will enhance the food safety choices consumers receive in their food purchases, and align Canadian consumers with American counterparts.



We encourage Health Canada to allow this proven safety procedure to be performed for ground beef products in Canada.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Bowman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a light yellow highlight behind it.

Matt Bowman
President

