



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

FEB 11 2000

9003 '00 FEB 14 P1:14

- The Honorable Charles S. Robb
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-4603

Dear Senator Robb:

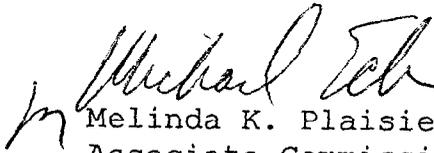
Thank you for your letter of January 10, 2000, on behalf of the members of Evans Dormitory, Episcopal High School of Alexandria, Virginia, concerning the practice of forced molting of chickens in the egg industry and the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA or the Agency) proposed rule on refrigeration and safe handling labeling of shell eggs, which was published in the Federal Register of July 6, 1999.

We appreciate your constituent's thoughtful comments on our proposal. Although the comment period for this regulatory proposal closed on September 20, 1999, her comments will be forwarded to the docket for this issue. The Agency does try, as time and resources permit, to accommodate comments received after the comment period.

Also, we have enclosed the President's Egg Safety Action Plan which was announced last December. This plan is a summary of the wide ranging actions the Administration is taking to eliminate salmonella in eggs.

We trust this information is helpful in responding to your constituent. If we may be of any further assistance in this matter, please contact us again.

Sincerely,


Melinda K. Plaisier
Associate Commissioner
for Legislation

Enclosure

cc: Dockets Management Branch
(Docket No. 98N-1230)

96P-0418

E
C 811 /ANS

CHARLES S. ROBB
VIRGINIA

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
Russell Senate Office Building
First and Constitution Avenue, NE, Room 154
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-4024
Email: senator@robb.senate.gov
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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4603

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
FINANCE
INTELLIGENCE
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
Democratic Policy Committee

January 10, 2000

Ms. Melinda K. Plaisier
Associate Commissioner for Legislative Affairs
Food and Drug Administration
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Parklawn Building
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 15-55
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Ms. Plaisier,

I recently received this letter from Ms. Elizabeth Horsey of Alexandria, Virginia, expressing concern regarding forced molting in the egg industry. I have enclosed a copy of her correspondence.

Please give her comments your attention and time. Your response is greatly appreciated. Many thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Charles S. Robb

CSR/bbc
Enclosure

No. 00-291

State Office:

The Ironfronts, Suite 310
1011 East Main Street
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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4603
January 6, 2000

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
FINANCE
INTELLIGENCE
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
Democratic Policy Committee

Ms. Elizabeth Horsey
Episcopal High School
Members of Evan Dormitory
1200 North Quaker Lane
Alexandria, Virginia 22302

Dear Friends:

Thank you for contacting me concerning the procedure of forced molting in the egg industry. I have forwarded your petition to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for their review and comment. I look forward to their response.

Thank you again for contacting me.

Sincerely,



Charles S. Robb

CSR/rsd

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1200 N. Quaker Lane
Alexandria, VA 22302
November 16, 1999

The Honorable Charles Robb
154 Russell Street Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: FDA

Dear Mr. Charles Robb:

We are writing to urge you to move to stop the procedure of forced molting in the egg industry immediately. Every year approximately 195 million hens in North America undergo this unnatural torment. The process may very well trick the chickens' bodies into producing more eggs, but it kills a horrific number of hens because of the starvation inflicted upon them. Not only is this treatment a cause of extreme suffering in the hens, it is also harmful to the eggs the factories strive to produce. It has certainly come to your and the FDA's attention that salmonella is a problem in the eggs from these factories. Recent studies by US government scientists have even discovered evidence that forced molting only *increases* the frequency of salmonella.

Please acknowledge our request that you make apparent that the most direct way to decrease salmonella is to put a halt to the tortuous process of forced molting. We are writing to request that the FDA does more than put warning labels on egg cartons and regulate egg refrigeration temperatures. Certainly dockets 98-N 1230, 96P-0418, and 97P-0197 should come into this consideration. Thank you for moving to cease this harmful procedure immediately.

Sincerely,

Members of Evans Dormitory,
Episcopal High School

Jayvee

Betsy Armstrong

[Signature]

Elizabeth Horsey

Kate Leggett

Zisak Manning

Emily Kim

April

Lizzy Seaton

Wonyoung Choi

Jiwon Lee

Katherine Hutchison

Imes Hamble

Jean P. Manning

Laura Donnan

Anna Bryan

Hattie Gulbre

Silvia Branch

Elizabeth Hossfeld

Kristin Smith

Leah K.

Ryan Killeen

Suzanne Gorman

Mir Thompson

Tracy Auld

Bessie McLaughlin

Minnie Ann

Riza Sam

Fayza Jilins

Armenyane

Elyza Pedlos

Anne & Arnold

Julie Sanders

CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 98N-1230/ *C 811*

See File Number: 97P-0197/ *C 812*

96P-0418/ *C 811*