

April 26, 1999

Docket 98P-0203/CP
Lyle D. Jaffe,
Dockets Management,
FDA/DHHS,
12420 Parklawn Drive, Room 1-23
Rockville, MD 20857

0541 '99 MAY -6 18:47

Dear Mr. Jaffe:

I have read in the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) magazine about the forced molting of egg-laying hens to produce more eggs. I support the petition to ban the forced molting of layer hens. The horrific process that can only be described as torture causes the animals to lay one last time, while they are sick and dying, producing sickly, salmonella-laden eggs.

Forced molting is so cruel that in 1987 it was banned in Great Britain, and most European countries do not allow food deprivation for more than 24 hours. However, in this great country of ours, hens often end their lives going without food, water, and light for several weeks.

How safe is our food if this cycle of egg-laying is under such squalid conditions that life-threatening bacteria can thrive and exist in the eggs that we eat? This can be cured by strict legislation and policy that allows the hens to live their lives in a natural, healthy life cycle. This would certainly include food, water, sanitation, space and light at a small cost to the farmer. It sickens me to think that my family is so unnecessarily and preventably exposed to such unhealthy food so that farmers can make a few extra pennies per egg.

Sincerely,

Barry & Lorri Summers

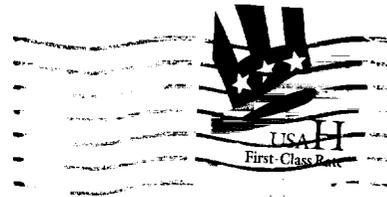
Barry and Lorri Summers
142 Sequoia Drive
Newtown, PA 18940

CC: Dr. Ron DeHaven
Acting Deputy Administrator
USDA-APHIS Animal Care
4700 River Road, Unit 84
Riverdale, MD 20737

98P-0203

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Lorri & Barry Summers
142 Sequoia Drive
Newtown, PA 18940



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