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FDA/Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
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I understand that the President's Inter-Agency Council on Food Safety is analyzing how to improve food safety. This is an excellent opportunity to address the need for mandatory safeguards at the animal production stage. This means more humane and hygienic treatment and conditions for farm animals.

Food safety hazards begin at the source, and are caused by the conditions under which the vast majority of farm animals are raised. Problems include:

- overcrowding and unnatural living conditions;
- feeding them chicken litter and feces;
- rendering diseased animals into animal feed;
- excessive use of antibiotics and other drugs, both to stimulate growth and to combat the risk of disease because of overcrowding and stress;
- unhygienic transport and slaughter.

There will be a great deal of pressure from the factory farming industry to exclude animals from consideration in the Council's plan. However, to ignore the issue of how these animals are raised and slaughtered dooms any food safety plan to failure.

If the Council is serious about improving food safety in this country, it must address the issue of factory farming. Otherwise, the Council will be wasting its time.

Sincerely,

Jackie Pomiés
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