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October 6, 1999

FDA/Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
5630 Fishers Lane
Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

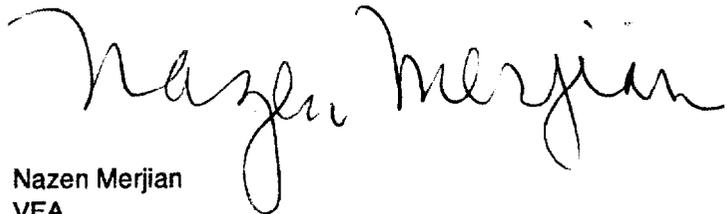
Re: Docket No. 97N-0074.

The standard molting procedure of starving birds for 10 to 14 days unavoidably stresses the birds. Their immune system is therefore suppressed and the flocks **susceptability** to salmonella infection is increased.

We support banning forced molting as three fourths of Salmonella Enteriditis outbreaks are linked to eggs.

The President's Council on Food Safety seeks public input on ways to reduce foodborne illness in the nation's food supply. Banning forced molting on eggs is imperative in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

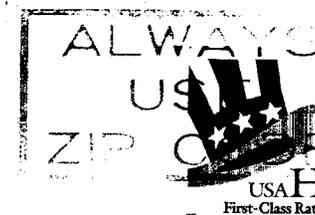


Nazen Merjian
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97N-0074

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