August 5, 1999

Re: Docket No. 98N-1230; 96P-0418; 97P-0197.

To whom it may concern:

I respectfully offer my comments on the Dockets listed above.

1666 99 AUG 10 A10:24

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) was petitioned in April 1998 to ban the practice of forced molting of domestic fowl. This petition should be granted without further delay.

Forced molting is the intentional starvation of egg-laying birds for up to 14 days for the manipulation of egg production. This practice is cruel and inhumane.

Bacteria warnings on egg cartons and regulation of egg refrigeration temperatures are insufficient measures to prevent the American public from the egg-borne diseases caused by contaminated eggs.

Forced molting (the practice of intentional starvation of birds for the purpose of manipulation of egg production) has destructive effects on the birds' immune systems, predisposing the birds and their eggs to salmonella poisoning.

The U. S. Dept. of Agriculture's Food and Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) has recognized this practice as a public health concern.

The FDA has jurisdiction to ban farm practices, such as forced molting, that injure human health. The FDA should prohibit the practice of forced molting because forced molting has been scientifically shown to promote disease by destroying the starving birds' immune systems. The FDA must ban the practice of forced molting because this practice is a primary cause of infectious diseases in birds, their eggs, and the consumers of these eggs.

Respectfully yours,

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96P-0418

C125

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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
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Dockets No. 98N-1230; 96P-0418; 97P-0[illegible]/0001

CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 98N-1230/ C125

See File Number: 97P-0197/ C126

96P 0418/ C125