8/18/99

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration 016 '99 AUG 23 A9:29
5630 Fishers Lane Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Sir or Madam,

Re: Docket numbers: 98N-1230; 96P-0418; 97P-0

I am writing to strongly urge that the FDA ban forced molting of hens. This is a cruel, self-serving practice that the US Dept of Agriculture's Food Safety & Inspection Service has found promotes egg borne diseases (e.g. "FSIS recognizes that public health concerns are raised by highly stressful forced molting practices. For example, extended starvation and water deprivation practices lead to increased shedding of Salmonella enteritidis (Se) by laying hens subjected to these practices.") As a member of the health care community, I am appalled that the effects of forced molting are known and documented by many independent sources, yet the practice is allowed to continue unchecked. Current weak and ineffective attempts to "warn" the public of egg contamination by putting Bacteria warning labels on egg cartons and regulating egg refrigeration temperatures by the FDA are simply not enough. The FDA has jurisdiction to ban farm practices, such as forced molting, that injure human health. Why the delay?? The FDA was

C332

98P-0418

petitioned in April 1995 to ban food melting. This petition should be granted immediately. I trust you will look into this action further.

Please prove that politics and the power of money will not hold sway over what is ethically right!

Sincerely,

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CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 98N-1230/ C332

See File Number: 97P-0197/ C333

96P-0418/ C332