August 24, 1999

To Whom It May Concern:

0810 '99 SEP -3 A11:09

I am writing this letter concerning docket numbers:

1. 98N-1230
2. 96P-0418
3. 97P-0197

It has come to my attention that the F.D.A. was petitioned in April of 1998, in a concerted effort to ban the practices of forced molting that are currently instituted by the U.S. Egg Industry. I would like to take a few moments to express to you my views on this matter.

I believe that the F.D.A. has an obligation to the public in matters concerning health and safety. If this is so then why is nothing being done to protect the consumer any further than putting warnings on egg cartons about the threat of bacteria contamination. This is simply not enough!!

C436

96P-0418 I understand that the F.D.A. is well aware that hundreds of thousands

of hens are living in cramped/closed quarters with little or no ventilation. They are starved to death and left to rot in cages - all for the sake of producing mass amounts of eggs. The eggs that come from these diseased and starving hens have been scientifically shown to be more susceptible and exposed to Salmonella enteritidis. If studies conducted clearly show that there is a link - which there is! - between forced molting of hens and a higher level and risk of disease in the hens, their eggs, and the consumers of those eggs - FORCED MOLTING MUST BE BANNED!!

Think of all of our lives at stake!

The F.D.A. should ban farm practices, such as forced molting and the overcrowding of animal living quarters, because these inhumane and [illegible]less practices have been [illegible]fically shown to promote disease in the egg laying hens, which in turn can only be detrimental to human health!

I hope you will also not forget that mass starvation of hens is a gross form of animal cruelty which must not be tolerated.

It makes no difference wether these are chickens, eagles, rabbits, tigers or chihuahuas - WE DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO KILL THESE ANIMALS FOR PROFIT! (Especially when human health is being compromised as well!)

Please - I beg you - grant this petition without further delay. The lives of thousands of birds, and the health and welfare of thousands of consumers is at great risk - AND WILL BE UNTIL FORCED MOLTING IS MADE ILLEGAL.

Thank you for your time -
Sincerely -

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PSS

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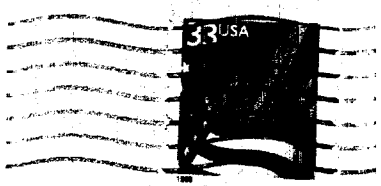

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

20857/0001

CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 98N-1230/ C436

See File Number: 97P-0197/ C437

96P-0418/ C436