October 19, 1999

To whom it may concern at the Food & Drug Administration

Re: Docket No. 98P-0203/CP1

1596 '99 OCT 25 P1:38

I respectfully request that the Food & Drug Administration grant United Poultry Concerns' petition to ban forced molting of egg-laying birds.

The practice of forced molting (starvation of egg-laying birds for 10 to 14 days) is cruel and inhumane treatment of the animals involved. This practice has been acknowledged by the egg industry as directly linked to the transmission of bacteria: egg-laying birds' immune systems are unavoidably stressed; their susceptibility to bacterial infection is increased; bacterial infections from these diseased birds are transmitted to their eggs (Egg Industry Magazine, June 1999; World Poultry, Vol. 12, No. 9, 1996; Food Chemical News, July 26, 1999).

Once again, I respectfully request that the Food & Drug Administration grant United Poultry Concerns' petition to ban the practice of forced molting of egg-laying birds.

Respectfully yours,

Madonna Niles
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98P-0203 C 1881

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