



CALIFORNIA POULTRY FEDERATION

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June 29, 2001

01-045IF
01-045IF-2
Bill Mattos

FSIS Docket Clerk, Docket #01-045IF
U.S. Department of Agriculture
FSIS, Room 102, Cotton Annex
300 12th Street, S. W.
Washington, D.C. 20250-3700

To Whom It May Concern:

The California Poultry Federation (CPF) represents California's (and some West Coast producers') dynamic poultry industry, including chickens, turkeys, squab, ducks, game birds and some layer operations. Our membership includes producers, processors, large integrators and very small processing plants around the Los Angeles area.

The CPF urges you to adopt the changes supported in the comments from Bob Shipley, president of the Squab Producers of California, the largest processor of squab in the world. Thankfully, Congress supported legislation that directs that squabs be inspected under the PPIA effective April 26, 2001. However, the interim final rule published in the Federal Register this year does not follow the intent of Congress.

The intent of Congress is spelled out in an enclosed letter from Congressman Gary Condit of Modesto who originated and supported the new legislation in question. It certainly is easy to interpret. Simply stated, it says "all pigeons meant for human consumption – regardless of age – are intended to be covered under this section of law." In fact, Congressman Condit points out that the interim rule, as written, "is contrary to Congressional intent."

I'm hopeful that the officials at the USDA will see the reason and common sense behind the comments submitted by Mr. Shipley. I've talked to Congressman Condit, Congressman Richard Pombo, Congressman Cal Dooley and Congressman Doug Ose, all members of the House Agriculture Committee. Each of them understand the intent of Congress and support these comments.

If you should have any questions regarding this issue, please don't hesitate to contact me

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BILL MATTOS, CALIFORNIA POULTRY FEDERATION - PRESIDENT

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at your convenience. This process should be a simple one; there is no opposition to Mr. Shipley's request that we know of, and there should not be a need to go back to Congress again, when the USDA can easily and simply re-write the interim rule into a final rule that includes the comments from Mr. Shipley.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Mattos". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

BILL MATTOS

President

Cc: The Honorable Ann Veneman
The Honorable Richard Pombo
The Honorable Gary Condit
The Honorable Doug Ose
The Honorable Cal Dooley