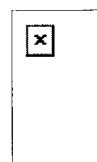
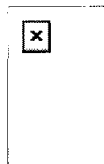


LB PROCESSORS, LLC



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July 22, 2003

FSIS Docket Clerk
 Docket 02-015DF, Room 102
 Cotton Annex
 300 C. St., SW
 Washington, DC 202250-3700

02-015DF-16
 02-015DF
 LB Processors

RE: ADVERSE COMMENTS FSIS 9CFR PART 381 RIN-O583-AC97

Dear Sir or Madam:

We would like to stringently oppose the proposed importing of poultry products (Ratites) into the United States from Australia and New Zealand under the Bill FSIS 9CFR Part 381 RIN-0583-AC97. This allowed importing action could ruin or totally devastate the American Ratite Industry, and what would happen to the many dedicated people and their families who have given years of time, energy, and money to build this industry.

The Emu (bird) is processed for the heart healthy lean meat which is under mandate inspection by the USDA. The Emu fat is being processed by American companies into an oil that is remarkable in its proven therapeutic uses. The American Emu Association is doing ongoing research at the University of Massachusetts, on the cholesterol lowering, anti-inflammatory, and transdermal characteristics of Emu oil. There are farms all over the US raising these Emu/Ratite birds, and we are depending on them to help earn our living.

There is no doubt that the foreign investors have not developed certified oil standards as we so costly and painstakingly did here in America in order to ensure safe and effective products for our customers. This action would open public exposure to this risk, after all we've done to try to prevent it, how would Americans know that these imported products are safe. Why would our government even put us at risk for such a thing. All it would take is one contamination of this imported product and it could destroy everything the industry has worked so hard for.

We are asking that you take this into consideration along with the many other requests that you have gotten to stop the Free Trade Agreement of Ratite products to America. I can guarantee your cons will entirely outweigh the pros. Thank you for your time and may God bless you.

Respectfully,

LB Processors
 Chapmansboro, Tennessee
 Phone: 1-615-746-8485

Fax: 1-615-746-9489