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FSIS Docket Clerk
Docket 02-015DF
Room 102
Cotton Annex
300 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20250-3700

Subject: Adverse Comment re FSIS 9 CFR Part 381 RIN 0583-AC97

Dear Sir or Madam:

I respectfully request that the proposed approval to add Australia and New Zealand to the list of foreign countries that are authorized to import poultry products (Ratites only) into the United States be rejected. This action alone could very well be the very one thing that breaks the back of the struggling American Ratite industry that has been desperately trying to get established in this country.

Those American farmers who have managed to survive the development of this new industry in America are only now beginning to see a market emerge that may finally enable them to engage in this agricultural field and show a profit. Many American farmers have already fallen into impossible financial stress or have already gone bankrupt. Those of us who have survived do not need our own government giving the fruits of our labors to foreign investors, who historically have undermined the price levels American producers need in order to make a profit.

There can be no doubt this untimely action would severely damage our own struggling ratite industry. Also, these foreign investors, undoubtedly, have not developed oil standards that have been established here in America, with great cost and effort, in order to assure inferior products with unknown potentials do not reach the American public. By passing, this proposal would open public exposure to this risk after all we have done to try to prevent it. Why would our own Government do such a thing?

Small farmers throughout the United States have sacrificed more than you can imagine to get this industry in America going. Why would our own Government even consider undermining us as this act will surely do?

Please!!!! If you can't help the American Ratite grower, don't help our competitors without first establishing a level playing field. Reject this unfair and ill conceived action.

Sincerely,

Darrel L. Kiefner

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