



# Schatz PUBLISHING GROUP

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

02-015DF-51 02-015DF Sheree Lewis
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Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the proposal to lift import restrictions for ratites and ratite products from Australia and New Zealand. Please reconsider this proposed rule as it would be very detrimental to not only our farm, but our industry.

It has taken years for our industry to develop this market. Emu farmers have endured an enormous struggle trying to build a market for products. Our national association has funded its own research, created marketing materials, worked for years to pass an Act of Congress just to be recognized as livestock, developed an infrastructure and educated a public that didn't even know what an emu was ten years ago. The association is a group of producers that has accomplished all of this without federal funding or assistance. This rule could help destroy our decade of hard work with the single stroke of a pen. Please reconsider what will happen to hundreds of American emu farmers before allowing a few overseas companies to enjoy profit at our expense.

Very respectfully,

Sheree Lewis

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