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Department of Agriculture
Food safety and Inspection Service

9 CFR Part 381

[Docket No. 02-015DF]

02-015DF-57
02-015DF
Glinda Cunningham

RIN 0583-AC97

Addition of Australia and New Zealand to the List of Foreign Countries Eligible to Import Poultry Products (Ratite Only) Into the United States

Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA
FISI Docket Clerk
Docket 02-015DF, Room 102
Cotton Annex, 300C Street SW
Washington, DC 20250-3700

Dear Sirs:

I am writing in regard to the above proposal to lift import restrictions for ratites and ratite products from Australia and New Zealand. I am so very much AGAINST doing this.

I have worked to get American grown ostrich on the plates of other Americans for the past fourteen years. I raise ostrich and at one point, I even opened a processing plant to be able to sell the meat too. After five years and many changes in regulations such as HAACP, I finally decided I could not do it all so I raised the yearlings and sold to other processors. Due to the low cost of the imported meat, I am just about unable to sell my yearlings now and cover costs involved, let alone make a profit or pay myself for my labor!

I am an American cattle and ostrich farmer, and like other American farmers, we pay our taxes and have trouble keeping our businesses going. I have been very active in the Texas

Ostrich Association and the American Ostrich Association working with USDA, FDA, Farm Bureau, Universities, State Department of Agriculture, etc. We have done everything that we can to have a safe food source. I do not understand why our own government is determined to undermine this industry. The passage of an Agreement to lift restrictions with New Zealand and Australia will hurt the ostrich growers of this great country. I do not understand why our government does not want the citizens to be able to produce and provide a food source here in the United States! Can someone there please let me know the answer? Please reconsider and withdraw this rule

Sincerely yours,
Glinda Cunningham
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