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October 13, 2005

04-037N
04-037N-17
Amy Loudermilk

Docket Clerk
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Food Safety and Inspection Service
300 12th Street, SW
Room 102 Cotton Annex
Washington, DC 20250

Agency: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA

Docket Number: 04-037N

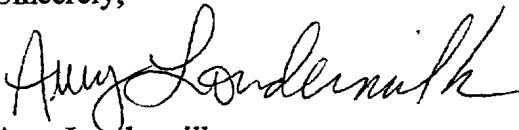
Dear Food Safety and Inspection Service.

This letter is to give my full support for the humane handling and slaughter of poultry. Over the last several years I have read numerous articles and books about the conditions in slaughterhouses. It appears that no consideration is given to relieving the stress of the animals but only to keeping the kill line moving at top speed. Every opportunity I get I let my friends and family know of the reality of the slaughterhouse and I have yet to hear from someone that believes this is acceptable. Many people I know have become vegetarians because they don't want to support the killing of animals in this ugly manner.

The humane handling of these animals should be a top priority. As the agency responsible for enforcing this humane handling and slaughter, the Food Safety and Inspection Service has an obligation to ensure these animals don't suffer. This includes poultry, which I believe probably suffer more than other animals because they are not included in the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act.

I fully support any efforts to ensure humane slaughter operations. I will continue to contact my legislators to advocate for humane handling and slaughter of poultry as well as other food animals.

Sincerely,



Amy Loudermilk
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