

PETER J. VISCLOSKY  
1ST DISTRICT, INDIANA

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House of Representatives  
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February 2, 2006

The Honorable Mike Johanns  
Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue; Southwest  
Washington, D.C. 20250-0003

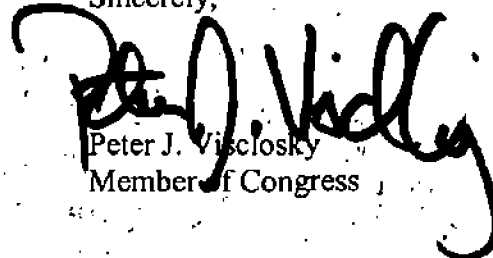
Dear Secretary Johanns:

I write on behalf of Mr. Gregory S. Hargrave, a resident of Indiana's First Congressional District.

Mr. Hargrave has contacted me to express his opposition to importing poultry from China. Enclosed, please find a copy of the correspondence I have received from Mr. Hargrave. I would appreciate your addressing his concerns.

Thank you in advance for your serious consideration of this matter. Do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Peter J. Visclosky  
Member of Congress

PJV:jd  
Enclosure

From: "Write your representative" <writerep@heoc-www6.house.gov>  
Date: 1/28/2006 7:31:18 PM  
To: IN01IMA@mail.house.gov  
Subject: WriteRep Responses

DATE: January 28, 2006 7:07 PM  
NAME: Gregory S Hargrave  
ADDR1: 803 Woodland Ter  
ADDR2:  
ADDR3:  
CITY: Valparaiso  
STATE: Indiana  
ZIP: 46383-1154  
PHONE:  
EMAIL: greggh@crowne.net  
msg:  
Sir:

I am attaching a copy of a letter I sent to the U.S.D.A. regarding their proposed rule to allow the import of processed poultry from China. I find this proposal to be alarming and irresponsible, given legitimate concerns about the possibility of an avian influenza outbreak. I am disappointed that such a proposed ruling, which will very likely generate widespread public outrage, appears to have been kept out of the spotlight until it was too late to submit comments.

Thank you, Sir, for your valuable time, and for your consideration of my concerns.

Respectfully,  
Gregory S. Hargrave

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U.S. Department of Agriculture docket number 05-012P; Proposed rule to allow the import of poultry processed in China to the United States; a strong, if belated, protest.

Sir or Madam:

I am well aware that this comment concerning the proposed rule to allow the import of processed poultry from China is being submitted subsequent to the cut-off date. It is no doubt unrealistic to entertain the notion that allowances might be made for the fact that members of the general public are seldom made aware of such proposed rulings until the story eventually surfaces through normal media channels. Still, I feel compelled to voice my opinion. Rest assured that this won't be my only attempt to do so.

I fault your Department for failing to give this proposal the public exposure it warranted. Undoubtedly you will discover it to be of great concern to the general public once it becomes common knowledge. I confess that I suspect this "oversight" may prove to have been intentional at some administrative level.

Given the present level of concern about avian influenza, and entirely legitimate concerns about China's reliability and responsibility when it comes to taking appropriate steps to address that threat, it is incomprehensible to me that you would even consider such a ruling. Apart from the fact that this would undoubtedly have an adverse effect on our domestic poultry industry--both by

allowing yet another unfair incursion into the U.S. marketplace, and by greatly diminishing confidence in the safety of the product as a whole--it would open an entirely new and completely unnecessary avenue for avian influenza to enter our country. Even if you happen to disagree with the actual reality of those assertions, I would think you would at least be aware of how the public will perceive your actions. Believe me, the public perception of what you propose will have political consequences you would much rather not deal with.

Please do not adopt this rule. It makes absolutely no sense to allow poultry processed in China to enter the U.S. marketplace. (Unless, of course, you happen to be Wal-Mart.)

I am forwarding a copy of this letter to my Congressional Representative, The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky.

Respectfully,  
G. S. Hargrave

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1401

PUBLIC DOCUMENT

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SECRETARY U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

2006 FEB -9 P 12:06



Kevin John  
Wells, Jr.

Missing

DOB: 12/19/91 Date Missing: 7/30/05  
Height: 5'5" Age Now: 13 years  
Weight: 170 lbs. Missing from: Hammond, IN  
Eyes: Brown  
Hair: Brown

Circumstances: Last seen at 6252 Garfield, Indiana

Anyone Having Information Should Contact  
Officer Retske)

Hammond Police Department  
5925 Columel Street, Hammond, In 46320  
(219) 853-6490

*Peter J. Visclosky*  
M.C.



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