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(on leave of absence, 109th Congress)

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

DENNIS MOORE
Third District, Kansas
<http://moore.house.gov>

February 1, 2006

MIKE JOHANNIS
SECRETARY
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1400 INDEPENDENCE AVE., S.W.
WASHINGTON DC 20250-0001

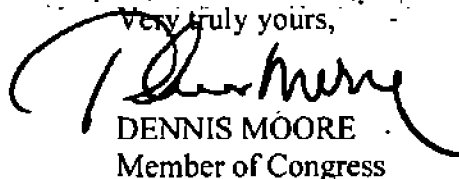
Dear Mike:

I recently received the enclosed communication from a resident of my congressional district.

I would very much appreciate receiving from your staff a response to the issues raised by my constituent. I will, of course, forward a copy of your response to my constituent.

Thank you very much for your prompt attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,



DENNIS MOORE
Member of Congress

DM:acm
Enc.

P.S. Please sign up for my e-mail newsletter to receive periodic updates on federal legislation at my Web site: <http://www.house.gov/moore>.

From: webforms@heocwww41.web.us.house.gov
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2006 8:51 PM
To: KS03WYR
Subject: Writerep Response

DATE: 01/27/2006 20:51
FULL NAME: Barbara Noteboom
ADDR1: 13930 W. 158th St
ADDR2:
CITY: Olathe
STATE: KS
ZIP: 66062
PHONE: 913-393-0171
EMAIL: Kidrooms@comcast.net

COMMENTS:

THIS IS JUST AN AWFUL PROPOSAL! I WORKED IN THE FOOD AND HEALTH INDUSTRY FOR MANY YEARS, AND THIS MAKES ME VERY UNCOMFORTABLE. I AM SURE YOU HAVE HEARD OF THIS, BUT PLEASE KNOW I AM VERY OPPOSED TO HAVING ANY OTHER COUNTRY PROCESSING OUR FOOD PRODUCTS. I WONDER WHICH HUGE CORPORATION IS PUSHING THIS.... TYSON OR SOME OTHER HUGE CHICKEN GIANT? BAD FOR AMERICA!

FROM A WEBSITE ON COMCAST:

USDA Proposes China Process U.S. Poultry By LIBBY QUAID, AP Food and Farm Writer
2 hours ago

WASHINGTON - The Agriculture Department is seeking to allow shipments of poultry processed in China, where thousands of birds and several people have died from bird flu.

The United States does not accept live poultry imports from countries where the virulent bird flu strain is present, and it still would not under the proposed policy.

Instead, the department would allow China to process poultry slaughtered in the U.S. or other countries from which the U.S. accepts poultry.

Critics are urging the department to drop the proposal, fearing how it might affect consumers' perception of how safe it is to eat chicken.

Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa said Friday the U.S. can't afford to take chances. He acknowledged there are safeguards in the plan but said the department has a poor record on inspections.

"We know that USDA's foreign food inspections have had problems in the past, and with so many unanswered questions, it is not wise to allow processed poultry imports from China at this time," said Harkin, the senior Democrat on the Senate Agriculture Committee.

"I am concerned the administration is neglecting the substantial public health and economic risks to the United States, which USDA itself acknowledges but fails to address," he said.

"The timing is a mystery to us. We did not seek this rule. We're not objecting to it, but we didn't support it, either," Lobb said.

Under the government proposal, the poultry would have to be fully cooked in China and packaged or canned for shipment to the United States.

The Agriculture Department proposed the rule, with no announcement, on Nov. 23. The period during which it accepted comments on the proposal ended Monday. The rule still must be finalized before it takes effect.

The department acted on a request from China, spokesman Steven Cohen said. The department "takes the issue of food safety extremely seriously," he said. "We would not have proposed this rule without having the scientific basis to be able to guarantee the safety of the product."

Officials are reviewing the comments and have no timeline for finalizing the rule, he said.

Sincerely,

Barbara Noteboom

IP ADDRESS: 69.254.255.33

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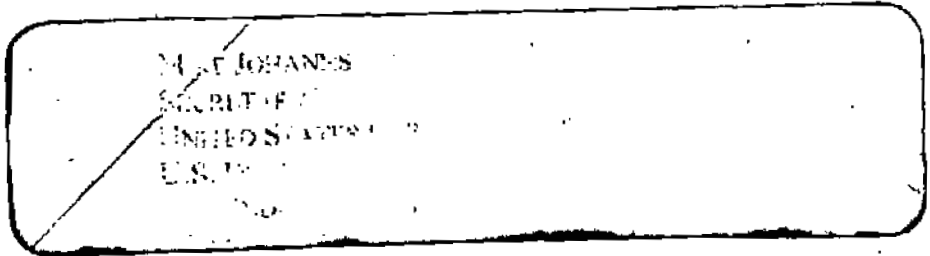
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Washington, DC 20515-1603

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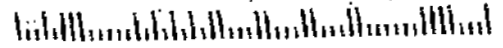


MAF JOHANNES
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