

2

RECEIVED  
FSIS DOCUMENT ROOM

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE  
SECRETARIAT.

Shannon M. Wiederholt, RD, LDN

Wellcare Health Promotion

Community Dietitian

148 West Sevier Avenue

Kingsport, TN 37660

(423) 224-3563

January 29, 2001

2001 FEB -5 A 8:19

COPIES: \_\_\_\_\_

97-013P-2  
97-013P  
Shannon  
Wiederholt

The Honorable Ann Veneman  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
14<sup>th</sup> Street and Independence Ave. SW  
Washington, DC 20250

**OE-4169822**  
**FSIS**

Dear Secretary Veneman:

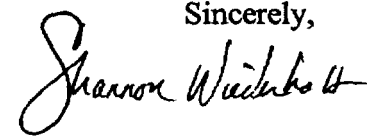
I am writing to you in regards to the proposed regulation on "Performance Standards for the Production of Processed Meat and Poultry Products." As a registered dietitian, I am often asked and concerned about the safety of our country's food supply. As you must know, the regulation was developed in response to a Listeria outbreak which occurred over two years ago in which ready- to-eat meat products, including hot dogs and deli meats, sickened 100 people and killed 21, including six miscarriages. The CDC estimates that Listeria causes 2,300 hospitalizations and 500 deaths per year. The proposed regulation is urgently needed to protect public health.

It is my understanding the regulation had been previously sent by the USDA to the Federal Register, but was never published, due to a hold on all new regulations by President Bush's Chief of Staff.

Clearly, this is a critical health and safety regulation that you should release on an emergency basis. Listeria especially sickens and kills the elderly, pregnant women, unborn children, young children and the immunocompromised. As a health professional and consumer, I feel this is an issue that needs immediate attention. The lay public is so often unaware of any gaps in the food industries safety regulations and their trust lies with your office to protect them.

I appreciate your time and thank you for your urgent attention to this matter. I look forward to seeing you continue to strengthen the USDA's food safety programs.

Sincerely,



Shannon M. Wiederholt, RD, LDN

USDA  
2

• From: alangshur@alantris.com on 01/25/2001 04:54 PM GMT

To: president@Whitehouse.GOV

cc:

Subject: Please publish the Performance Standards for Processed Meat and Poultry Products regulation

---

George W. Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

**04-4171438**  
**FSIS**

Dear George W. Bush,

I am concerned that there has been a hold placed on the publication of the proposed regulation on "Performance Standards for the Production of Processed Meat and Poultry Products." My understanding is that it had been previously sent by USDA to the Federal Register, but was never published. I'm a bit concerned to find out that it was held back because President Bush's Chief of Staff ordered a hold on all new regulations.

While I don't believe that regulations are always a good thing, when it comes to food and food safety, I strongly support the USDA actions. I urge you to support the initiatives of the USDA to safeguard America's food supply.

Alex Langshur  
16 Ramshead rd  
Medford, Massachusetts 02155