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

January 27, 2001

The Honorable Ann Veneman,

97-013P-3
97-013P
Allison Vetter

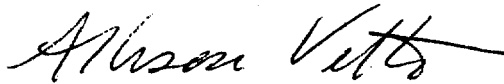
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I'm urging you to immediately approve publication of the proposed regulation on "Performance Standards for the Production of Processed Meat and Poultry Products." You must want to protect those most at risk to death from a Listeria outbreak, such as the elderly, pregnant women, unborn children, young children and those with compromised immune systems. Holding back publication, because the Chief of Staff has ordered a hold on all new regulations, raises the chance of preventable deaths.

Sincerely,



Allison Vetter
7 Oak Crest Road
West Orange NJ 07052

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United States
Department of
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Food Safety
and Inspection
Service

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MAR 28 2001

Ms. Allison Vetter
7 Oak Crest Road
West Orange, New Jersey 07052

Dear Ms. Vetter:

Thank you for your February 27, 2001, letter, urging approval for the publication of the proposed regulation on "Performance Standards for the Production of Processed Meat and Poultry Products".

We share your interest in food safety and appreciate hearing from you. The proposal mentioned in your letter was published in the February 27, 2001, *Federal Register*, and we have enclosed a copy for you. The public comment period for the proposal, "Performance Standards for the Production of Processed Meat and Poultry Products," closes on May 29, 2001. Your correspondence will be included in the official record of public comments.

Sincerely,

Philip S. Derfler
Deputy Administrator
Office of Policy, Program Development
and Evaluation

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Trudy Roddick
Director of Mail Analysis
OEOB
Room 58
Washington, D.C. 20503