

John R. Morreale, Inc.

①

222 NORTH PEORIA STREET

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60607

TEL 312/421-3664

FAX 312/421-6955

RECEIVED
FSIS DOCKET ROOM

99 JAN 32 AM 10: 21

2/1/99
MAR

97-068N

January 23, 1999

FSIS Docket Clerk
Cotten Annex Building
300 12th Street S.W.
Washington D.C. 20250-3700

Dear Sirs:

We are a small family owned business, operating in Chicago, Illinois for the past 85 years. Our business involves boning of beef carcasses and boxed beef and boxed pork distribution. We employ 68 people and service approximately 450 customers throughout the United States.

In regards to the January 19, 1999 new policy concerning E.coli 0157:H7, it is our belief that if enforced the way that it was explained to us by the FSIS, we would have to close our doors for business. We could not afford a recall of the magnitude that it could potentially present. Our Insurance could not and probably would not cover the cost of such a gigantic recall.

During last weeks panic in the Beef Industry due to this new policy, our suppliers and our customers were sending out legal forms for us to sign making us responsible in case of a recall somewhere along the line of production. Quite frankly signing anything of this nature would be financial suicide, because one recall would put us out of business.

I'm not exactly sure what the answer is, but it is my opinion that the recall should be limited to only the meat that has tested positive and not to include the whole days production and also educating the public of their responsibility in cooking the product.

It is also my opinion that if this new policy is enforced the result would be a meat shortage for the consumers because we the providers could not afford to stay in business.

Respectfully,



John Lucaccioni
President