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January 17, 2000

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F.S.I.S. Docket Clerk  
Docket No. 98027R  
Room 102 , Cotton Annex  
300 -12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington D.C. 20250-3700

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Advanced Meat Recovery (AMR)

98-027R-9  
98-027R  
Linda Mostyn

I am a consumer interested in the safety of food that I present to my family. I have been observing the development of the controversy between the National Consumers League (NCL) and the proponents of AMR via the Internet over the past three years. As one outside the food industry, politics, and government, I wish to submit the results of what I have gleaned from by observation.

I am not a scientist, nor am I an expert in the meat industry, but as a well informed consumer, I have to admit that I have lost respect and faith in the process by which our national food sources are kept safe. My disappointment lies in the actions of the NCL and the FSIS.

Although I generally support the efforts of groups who bring to the forefront the highest interests of the consumer, I am very disillusioned by the actions of the NCL concerning AMR. When a consumer group accepts money to fund its activities from a third party, who has their own selfish agenda in mind, the needs of consumers are not served. Instead, what began supposedly as a food safety issue, is really a screen for a large corporation's selfish ambitions to control a segment of the meat industry. The NCL is being manipulated, or is allowing itself to be manipulated, by it's benefactors and in the process has lost its credibility as an advocate for consumers. The NCL must be more judicious when receiving contributions from supposed adherents. In this debate the genuiness of the supporter is merely imagined.

On the other hand, the F.S.I.S. has somehow been pressured by the corrupt agenda of the NCL to set scientifically unsupported calcium and iron limits. As I understand the research, limits have been set arbitrarily, applying not to the entire beef industry, but only to meat produced through AMR systems. The F.S.I.S. has erroneously deferred to the NCL, leaving consumers without representation and unprotected. Not only do we have a consumer group not serving the needs of consumers, we have a debased agency of the US government whose sole purpose it is to safeguard the food supply of the American people.

Simply stated, as a consumer, I would prefer both organizations get on with their legitimate task of acting on behalf if the American public, concentrating on issues pertaining to food safety.

Sincerely,

*Linda Mostyn*  
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