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January 22, 2006

Docket Clerk,
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Food Safety and Inspection Service
300 12th Street, SW.,
Room 102 Cotton Annex, Washington, DC 20250

Re: Docket Number 05-012P
Agency: Food Safety and Inspection Service
Proposed Rule: Addition of the People's Republic of China To the List of Countries
Eligible To Export Processed Poultry and Poultry Products to the United States.

To Whom It May Concern:

It has come to my attention as a US citizen there is a proposed rule change in the making that would allow poultry meat from China to come into the US, for consumption by us. How can you expect China to uphold our rules on processing and keep this country free of the dreaded Avian bird flu. Please correct me but I haven't been able to pick up any newsprint these days without seeing the hysteria of a pending pandemic caused by just such a disease. I cannot accept the fact that with our poultry plants seeing a downturn in business today from just that kind of scare, that you see fit to allow this industry in China to come here and destroy some of our long established smaller plants. Who can be behind this type of thinking? Could it be Tyson Foods, or Pilgrim's Pride etc. They must have plants already in operation in China and may be looking for that dreaded phrase.. "cheaper labor costs". When you include specialty companies, such as Goose and Duckling plants, you will destroy their livelihoods, as well as countless numbers of small family farms that supply these same businesses.

Why do other nations ban our beef supplies over 1 cow with mad cow disease?? They are terrified from bringing into their food chain, a supply of meat from any infected country. Why would these changes even be looked at by our trusted USDA?!

This makes absolutely no sense to me and I intend to voice my concerns to my elected officials.

Thank you,
Jerry LeMire

