



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and  
Inspection Service

1400 Independence  
Avenue, SW,  
Washington, D.C.  
20250

DEC 8 2017

Ms. Wenonah Hauter  
Executive Director  
Food & Water Watch  
1616 P Street NW, Suite 300  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Ms. Hauter:

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has received the petition you submitted on behalf of Food and Water Watch dated December 6, 2017. The petition requests that FSIS remove Brazil as a country eligible to export meat products to the United States under 9 CFR 327.2(b). The petition asserts that findings from FSIS's audits of Brazil's meat inspection system over the past 16 years, along with findings of corruption by Brazil's own law enforcement authorities, demonstrate that Brazil no longer meets the criteria for equivalency with USDA's meat inspection system.

Your request is being considered as a rulemaking petition under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553(e)), USDA's administrative regulations (7 CFR 1.28), and FSIS's regulations on petitions (9 CFR part 392). Your petition has been referred to the Office of Policy and Program Development for review, and it has been assigned petition number 17-08. As provided in 9 CFR 392.6, your petition will be made available to the public in the FSIS docket room and will be posted on the FSIS Website at:

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/regulations/petitions>

You may contact Mary Porretta, Petitions Manager, Issuances Staff at (202) 720-5627 if you have any questions regarding the status of your petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Michael".

for Matthew Michael  
Director  
Issuances Staff  
Office of Policy and Program Development