



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Food Safety  
and Inspection  
Service

Washington, D.C.  
20250

JUN 5 2013

Ms. Alison N. Langlias  
PROSKAUER ROSE LLP  
One International Place  
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Ms. Langlias:

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has received the petition submitted by you on behalf of the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) requesting that FSIS initiate rulemaking to require that the labeling of meat and poultry products disclose the routine use of antibiotics. The petition also requests that FSIS clarify the standard for “antibiotic free” labeling claims.

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 13-03. 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/regulations\\_&\\_policies/Petitions/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_&_policies/Petitions/index.asp).

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,

Charles E. Williams  
Director  
Issuances Staff  
Office of Policy and Program Development