

From: [Weisberg, Lawrence](#)
To: [FSIS Petitions - FSIS](#)
Subject: [External Email]Petition 23-01
Date: Friday, January 20, 2023 5:25:16 PM

[External Email]

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to endorse Dr. Reisman's petition to rescind the prohibition on sale of animal lungs for human consumption. As a physician dedicated to evidence-based practice, I find his arguments quite compelling, and fail to grasp the logic of the original prohibition.

Sincerely,

Lawrence S. Weisberg, MD, MACP, FASN
Professor of Medicine
Associate Director, Center for Humanism
Associate Dean for Professional Development
Cooper Medical School of Rowan University
Attending Nephrologist
Cooper University Health Care
Camden, New Jersey

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From: [Boaz Reisman](#)
To: [FSIS Petitions - FSIS](#)
Subject: [External Email]In support of Petition 23-01
Date: Friday, January 20, 2023 9:57:06 PM

[External Email]

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I am writing in support of Petition 23-01, authored by Jonathan Reisman M.D.

Plenty of cultures have eaten lungs in traditional foods and the ban on it is unscientific. Just because organs are not a part of the average American diet does not mean they should be banned.

Thank you for you time,
Boaz Reisman

--

Boaz Reisman
415.269.1467
www.boazreisman.com

From: [Chicoine, Renee - FSIS](#)
To: [FSIS Petitions - FSIS](#)
Subject: Response to Petition by Jonathan Reisman MD
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 8:36:08 AM

I have very serious concerns about this petition requesting that 9CFR 310.16(a), be amended to allow livestock lungs to be saved and sold as human food. Dr. Reisman doesn't seem to understand that biological hazards (pathogens) aren't the only type of hazards that are of importance when it comes to food safety and disease prevention. There are also physical and chemical hazards that can negatively impact health. In his petition, Dr. Reisman states: "... this rule is not based on concern over actual lung pathology in animals. Instead, the rule is based on studies done by the USDA around the year 1969 in which scientists examined animal lungs and found contaminants in the airways, specifically fungal spores, dust, pollen, and aspirated rumen contents. The lungs were generally pathology free, and it was solely because of these supposed contaminants that the rule was amended to declare the lungs unfit for human consumption." It is unfortunate he doesn't understand that the health risks posed by certain contaminants cannot be eliminated by cooking. For example, dust, depending on what kind it is, can be extremely hazardous. Crystalline silica and asbestos fibers would be two examples of particulates that can cause disease in humans (and not just in lungs -these particles can cause fibrosis and cancer anywhere because they are small enough to migrate through tissue and stay lodged forever). But there are other possibilities as well. Lungs are basically air filters. Human beings should not be eating dirty air filters. The clearance mechanisms that Dr. Reisman speaks of (muco-ciliary apparatus and goblet cells, which together produce mucous and "wisk" particles back out), are only effective for larger particles. The smaller particles that do the most damage (< .3 microns) get right past these clearance mechanisms and get stuck deep in the lungs. While it is true that contaminants already exist in the environment, that is certainly not justification for purposely ingesting more. We already have an epidemic of cancer and chronic diseases in this country. People don't need another method of being poisoned, so to speak. Also, he mentions aspirated rumen contents (ingesta), for which FSIS enforces a zero tolerance standard. If it is not allowed on carcasses and edible viscera, then it should not be allowed in lungs. The zero tolerance standard alone should be enough to shut this petition down. Please do the right thing and keep this regulation in place.

Renee Chicoine

Supervisory Public Health Veterinarian
Office of Field Operations
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA
Seaboard Triumph Foods
Sioux City, Iowa 51111
Phone: (712) 226-7936
renee.chicoine@usda.gov

From: [Al Goldberg](#)
To: [FSIS Petitions - FSIS](#)
Subject: [External Email]petition 23-01
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 11:13:33 AM

[External Email]

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Hello - I read about Petition 23-01 and support this initiative. If there is no scientific reason to restrict selling animal lungs, it would be environmentally responsible to do so.

Thank you for your consideration.

-al goldberg
Founder, CEO, Mess Hall

From: [Corinne Schneider](#)
To: [FSIS Petitions - FSIS](#)
Subject: [External Email] I support petition 23-01 in overturning the lung ban
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 11:58:59 AM

[External Email]

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I support petition 23-01 in overturning the lung ban:

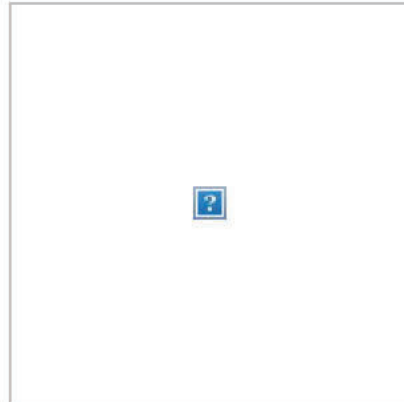
<https://www.fsis.usda.gov/policy/petitions/petition-submitted-jonathan-reisman-md>

--

Corinne Schneider

Producer, The MeatEater Podcast

1 [REDACTED] | corinne@themeateater.com
www.themeateater.com



From: [TIM HENNINGER](#)
To: [FSIS Petitions - FSIS](#)
Subject: [External Email]PETITION 23-01
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 2:25:47 PM

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Dr. Reisman's petition is scientifically and medically accurate. As a medical doctor I support overturning the ban on saving lungs for human food.

From: [Halima&Dria SP](#)
To: [FSIS Petitions - FSIS](#)
Subject: [External Email]Petition 23-01
Date: Friday, January 27, 2023 5:45:20 PM

[External Email]

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I am petitioning the FSIS and USDA to request that 9CFR 310.16(a), the rule stating “Livestock lungs shall not be saved for use as human food” be amended to allow livestock lungs to be saved and sold as human food.

I am a chef and a farmer who is originally from Nigeria and I have not seen any harm done to people who have injected livestock lungs. If you can cook the tripe and the intestines and it is not causing any health damage to the human body, I don’t see how kings can create a medical problem.

Thank you for taking the time to reconsider this law.

Regards,

Halima Salazar
Gimbiaskitchen

From: [REDACTED].com
To: [FSIS Petitions - FSIS](#)
Subject: [External Email]Comment on Petition 23-01
Date: Saturday, January 28, 2023 5:29:28 PM

[External Email]

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As part of a family of dual UK and US citizens who have lived in both Scotland and the US, I have eaten a large quantity of haggis. It is judged safe to eat in the UK and Europe which have arguably higher food safety standards than the US (requiring vaccinated chicken that doesn't require chlorination baths and unwashed eggs that don't need refrigeration due to no risk of salmonella).

The USDA should base safety on actual best practices used in civilized countries, not dreamed-up risks from 50 years ago. Please remove the prohibition on lungs in haggis and other ethnic foods and apply more effort to properly inspecting and regulating those products with proven risks and recalls, such as chicken, ground beef, romaine lettuce, ice cream, peanut butter and baby formula. This comment is for the public record.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FSIS Petitions - FSIS](#)
Subject: [External Email]Petition 23-01
Date: Sunday, January 29, 2023 12:43:40 PM

[External Email]

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To whom it may concern:

Please consider repealing 9CFR 310.16(a)

In these times of food insecurity and the effort, cost and environmental factors considering raising live stock, to resort to repurposing "humanly undesirable" animal byproducts as pet food instead of providing more food availability for humans is simply wasteful. With more emphasis these days related to organic, sustainable, free range and overall food manufacturing safety makes one time food prohibitions due to contaminants or cultural objections obsolete and in some cases ridiculous. As Dr. Reisman pointed out, our remarkable human bodies already deal with these allergens and bacteria on a daily basis.

It might be stated that there is some burden of proof required to study and show the safety of consuming livestock lungs. The fact that there has been no widespread epidemic of sickness or disease from consuming livestock lung foods like Haggis in the UK could be considered a de facto scientific study as proof that there has never been a known outbreak of fatal or harmful diseases caused by eating Haggis. The modern western citizens of the UK have been excellent "guinea pigs" for hundreds of years showing proof of the safety of "lung foods". By the way, it is legal to eat Guinea Pigs in the US.

It's obvious that scientific studies can be slanted and manipulated to meet the needs of the entities that commission the study. As examples, there have been plenty of studies and scientific evidence on the harm caused by every day foods and substances we consume in America such as cigarettes, alcoholic beverages, cannabis, cheese burgers, ice cream, etc. As proven time and again and because Business Schools teach their students the art of statistical manipulation, just because some consumable has had hundreds of "scientific studies" promoting or dissuading the use of those substances doesn't necessarily legitimize it as safe or un-safe for consumption. Furthermore these studies don't necessarily dissuade or encourage our populace from/to their use.

Our country has been a country of immigrants and supposedly continues to be so. Denying our citizens of different religions, ethnicity, races and cultures normal access to their traditional foods based on an outdated study could be considered "un-American". We have been blessed with a variety of new tastes and wonderful dishes from around the world because of the makeup of our citizenry. As a country that offers free choice to it's citizens, why anyone would oppose this when all they have to

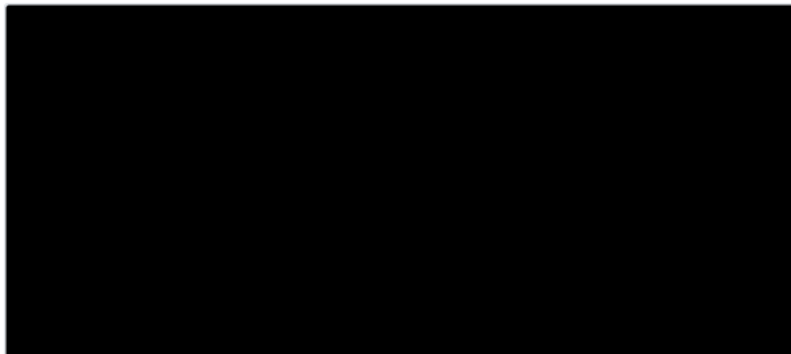
do is **Not Eat Haggis**. Much the same way anyone would choose not to eat chicken liver, gizzards or feet, beef tongue, animal brains, mountain oysters, bats from caves or any other food that may not appeal to one, but is a culinary delight to another.

It's amazing the USDA would oppose this and STILL has this as a prohibition. This is along the lines of other outdated laws such as those related to "waking sleeping bears", "letting your donkey sleep in the bath tub" or the prohibition against "whistling under water" (1). This country has had a troubling history of creating and enforcing laws and rules directed toward marginalized segments of the population which is why we have Native American Land Reservations and dare I say separate drinking fountains and schools just to name ONLY 2 examples.

Thank You So Much
J.R. Holbrook
Arkansas, USA

References

(1) [The United States of Crazy Laws](#)



The United States of Crazy Laws

There are laws in all 50 states that are a bit "crazy" in today's terms for a number of reasons. Some laws that ...

From: [Richard Pinney](#)
To: [FSIS Petitions - FSIS](#)
Subject: [External Email]RE: Petition 23-01
Date: Sunday, January 29, 2023 5:37:37 PM
Attachments: [External EmailRE Petition 23-01.msg](#)

[External Email]

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From: [Richard Pinney](#)
To: [FSIS Petitions - FSIS](#)
Subject: [External Email]RE: Petition 23-01
Date: Sunday, January 29, 2023 5:37:31 PM
Attachments: [OpenPGP 0x1B250F42468F3DD4.asc](#)
[OpenPGP signature.dat](#)

To the FSIS and USDA ,

I would be very interested in trying an authentic Scottish haggis containing sheep's lungs, but I am not in a position to travel outside the US just to sample a dish that is unfortunately illegal here. I would support the legalization of the use of animal lungs in human food for a variety of reasons. The use of animal lungs in human food has an extensive track record of safety in many places around the world, and those of us in the US should have the freedom to buy and eat whatever food products we choose. The US government should not be arbitrarily banning any available foodstuffs. Food is becoming an ever more precious commodity, and the government should not be limiting how we use the foodstuffs that we have available.

Richard Pinney

From: [Noah Zakim](#)
To: [FSIS Petitions - FSIS](#)
Subject: [External Email]petition 23-01
Date: Monday, January 30, 2023 2:05:37 PM

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i am writing to support this petition.

there is no scientific rationale for the banning of lungs as a food product in the US.

Please consider overturning so lungs can be sold as food, thank you.

--

Kind regards,

Noah Zakim

From: [Nicholas W.](#)
To: [FSIS Petitions - FSIS](#)
Subject: [External Email]public comment for petition 23-01
Date: Monday, January 30, 2023 3:02:23 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you in support of Petition 23-01 by Jonathan Reisman to allow animal lungs to be allowed to be saved and used as human food. I base this on my experience as an actively practicing physician and as someone who studied food safety while pursuing my Masters of Public Health degree. Dr. Reisman makes a logical argument in that we are already consuming, raw, the "spores, dust and pollen" regularly cleared from our own lungs. I see no scientific reason to believe that the cooked lung tissue of other animals would confer any increased risk of harm. I work at a Native hospital in rural Alaska and I can attest that I've never seen anyone fall ill from ingesting a lung. Seal, walrus and beluga whale lung are part of the traditional Yup'ik cuisine of western and southwestern Alaska (reference below). Food safety rules should be guided by science and this rule as it currently stands appears to have been derived out of unfamiliarity and fear.

Thank you for your consideration,
Nicholas W. Napoli, MD, MPH

WALRUS HUNTING AT TOGIAK, BRISTOL BAY, SOUTHWEST ALASKA James A. Fall,
Molly Chythlook, Janet Schichnes, and Rick Sinnott' Technical Paper No. 212 ' Fall:
Division of Subsistence, Anchorage Chythlook and Schichnes: Division of Subsistence,
Dillingham Sinnott: Division of Wildlife Conservation, Anchorage

--

Nicholas W. Napoli

From: [Abhay Singh](#)
To: [FSIS Petitions - FSIS](#)
Subject: [External Email]Petition 53-01 to amend the regulations in 9 CFR 310.16(a)
Date: Monday, January 30, 2023 5:08:28 PM

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Please overturn the rule regarding the prohibition on the use of livestock lungs for human food. This does not have a scientific or health-related reason.

Although I understand that few people are asking for this change, it still should be overturned because of the lack of basis for it to exist in the first place. I am quoting Dr Reisman's well written petition:

"The lack of mass public mobilization clamoring for the USDA to overturn this rule should not be a legitimate reason to keep it in the federal register through regulatory inertia. Food policy should be evidence-based and scientific, and this rule is neither."

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Abhay Singh, M.D.
Bethlehem PA

From: [Reisman, Tamar](#)
To: [FSIS Petitions - FSIS](#)
Subject: [External Email]In support of Dr. Jonathan Reisman's petition 23-01 to overturn the ban on selling lungs as human food.
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 4:01:48 PM

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January 31, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

Today I am writing in support Dr. Reisman's petition 23-01 to overturn the ban on selling lungs as human food. As an endocrinologist reviewing the available data, it is clear that the current ban on lung meat is not based on sound scientific grounds. Moreover, it is discriminatory against populations that have cultural ties to this food (for example, it is a common ingredient in haggis). It is time to reverse this silly ban.

Sincerely,

Tamar Reisman, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

36 W 60 St.
New York, NY 10023
T: [212-523-8672](tel:212-523-8672) | F: [212-265-3416](tel:212-265-3416) | tamar.reisman@mssm.edu

Center for Transgender Medicine and Surgery
275 7th Ave., 12 floor
New York, NY 10011
T: [212-604-1730](tel:212-604-1730) | F: [212-604-1750](tel:212-604-1750) | tamar.reisman@mssm.edu

From: [Vivian Reisman](#)
To: [FSIS Petitions - FSIS](#)
Subject: [External Email]Dr. Reisman's petition 23-01
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 4:16:28 PM

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Dear Sir/Madam:

This letter herein is submitted in support of Dr. Jonathan Reisman's petition 23-01, to overturn the existing ban on the sale of lungs in the United States.
The 1971 lung ban ruling is neither scientific nor does it improve public health and safety. As an attorney I can categorically assert that laws implemented to ban foods must have some bearing on facts and law. The ban on the sale of lungs should forthwith be overturned.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Vivian G. Reisman, Esq.
[REDACTED]
Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632

From: [Linda Nguyen](#)
To: [FSIS Petitions - FSIS](#)
Subject: [External Email]Petition 23-01
Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:10:04 PM

[External Email]

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To Whom This May Concern:

I support Dr. Jonathan Reisman's petition to overturn the law declaring lungs inedible. I am a medical doctor, and eating lungs is no more dangerous than eating any other organ. This law is unscientific, unnecessary waste, and should be overturned.

Thank you,

Dr Linda Nguyen
NPI 1326275405