



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

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

Will Lowrey, Legal Counsel
Animal Partisan
11357 Nuckols Road, #138
Glan Allen, Virginia 23059

September 7, 2023

Dear Mr. Lowrey:

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has received the petition you submitted on behalf of Animal Partisan on September 2, 2023. The petition requests that FSIS issue a notice to convey that: 1) State government officials are not categorically preempted from enforcing state anti-cruelty laws by the Federal Meat Inspection Act, the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act, or the Poultry Products Inspection Act, and 2) FSIS personnel should cooperate with state government officials in the enforcement of state anti-cruelty laws and improve clarity and frequency of communication (i.e., Letters of Concern (“LOC”)) to those officials. The petition also requests that FSIS incorporate these points into the language of all relevant materials, including future LOCs and the following directives:

- Humane Handling and Slaughter of Livestock, FSIS Directive 6900.2;
- Verification of Good Commercial Practices, FSIS Directive 6110.1; and
- District Veterinary Medical Specialist (DVMS) – Work Methods, FSIS Directive 6910.1.

Your request is being considered as a petition for policy change under FSIS’ regulations on petitions (9 CFR part 392). Your petition has been referred to the Office of Policy and Program Development for review and has been assigned petition number 23-07. 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:

<https://www.fsis.usda.gov/policy/petitions>.

You may contact Mary Porretta, Petitions Manager, Regulations Development Staff at mary.porretta@usda.gov if you have any questions regarding the status of your petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Hammar".

Melissa Hammar
Director
Regulations Development Staff