



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

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

MAR 8 2019

Ashley Peterson
Senior Vice President
Scientific and Regulatory Affairs
National Chicken Council
1152 Fifteenth Street, NW, Suite 430
Washington, DC, 20005

Dear Dr. Peterson:

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has received the petition dated March 1, 2019, that you submitted on behalf of the National Chicken Council (NCC). The petition requests that FSIS amend 9 CFR 381.82 to treat lesions suspected of being caused by Avian Leukosis as a trimmable condition rather than a condition that requires condemnation of the entire carcass. You also request that FSIS eliminate regulations that require FSIS offline inspectors to check the viscera of the first 300 birds of each new flock in young chicken establishments operating under the New Poultry Inspection System (NPIS) to determine if the flock is affected with Avian Leukosis (9 CFR 381.36(f)(3) and 381.76(b)(6)(iv)).

Your request is being considered as a petition for rulemaking under FSIS's petition regulations (9 CFR part 392). Your petition has been referred to the FSIS Office of Policy and Program Development for review and has been assigned petition number 19-01. As provided in 9 CFR 392.6, your petition and the supporting documentation 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,

Matthew Michael
Director
Issuances Staff
Office of Policy and Program Development