



October 1, 2014

The Honorable Brian Ronholm
Acting Under Secretary for Food Safety
U.S.D.A. Food Safety and Inspection Service
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250-3700

Dear Mr. Ronholm:

The enclosed petition requests that USDA take action to control an ongoing threat to public health from antibiotic-resistant pathogens in the meat and poultry supply, by declaring certain strains of antibiotic-resistant *Salmonella* to be adulterants under the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act. Outbreak data demonstrate that consumers are already being sickened by these pathogens, and the resulting illnesses lead to more hospitalizations.

Importantly, USDA has the legal authority to declare adulterant status for these pathogens, just as it has for *E. coli* O157:H7 in 1994 and six strains of non-O157 STECs in 2011. The statutory authority and legal precedent for doing so is outlined in the petition.

The Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) is a nonprofit health advocacy and education organization focused on food safety and nutrition issues. CSPI is supported principally by the 750,000 U.S. subscribers to its *Nutrition Action HealthLetter* and by foundation grants. We accept no government or industry funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caroline Smith DeWaal". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Caroline Smith DeWaal
Director, Food Safety Program

Enclosure