



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

NOV 30 2017

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

Mr. Vandhana Bala
General Counsel
Mercy for Animals
8033 Sunset Blvd. Ste. 864
Los Angeles, CA 90046

Dear Mr. Bala:

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has received the petition you submitted on behalf of Mercy for Animals dated November 15, 2017. The petition requests that FSIS initiate rulemaking to include poultry as “livestock” under the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (HMSA) (7 U.S.C. 1901-1907) and as “amenable species” under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) (21 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*). The petition also requests that FSIS determine methods of slaughter for poultry species that comply with requirements under the HMSA and issue directives, notices, and other policy and guidance documents for enforcement of the humane slaughter provisions at official poultry slaughter establishments.

Your request is being considered as a petition for rulemaking 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 17-06. 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.

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

Mr. Bala

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cc:

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Date:

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