

The Honorable Tom J. Vilsack
Secretary, United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Re: Petition Number 13-08, Poultry Slaughter

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to thank the USDA for repeatedly recognizing that cruelty to birds is an issue that demands your attention, over which you have authority.

In 2005, for example, a Federal Register notice declared that stopping the abuse of birds is a "high priority" for the USDA, and a 2009 agency directive noted that "humane methods of handling and slaughtering ... increase the likelihood of producing unadulterated product," which the agency is legally obligated to address.

Please take the next step by acting on petition 13-08, which was filed by Farm Sanctuary and the Animal Welfare Institute, requesting that the USDA promulgate humane poultry regulations.

A key regulation that the USDA should require is the humane euthanasia of all birds who arrive at the slaughterhouse with broken wings or legs. Just try to imagine the agony of arriving to slaughter with broken limbs only to be dumped from your crate, snapped into shackles by hurried workers, and electrocuted -- it is beyond our worst nightmares.

Chickens are interesting individuals who compare favorably to dogs in scientific tests of cognitive and behavioral complexity, and they deserve better.

Please let me know of your decision at the address below.

VISHNU SUBRAMANIAN

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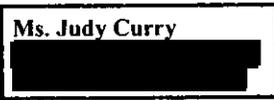
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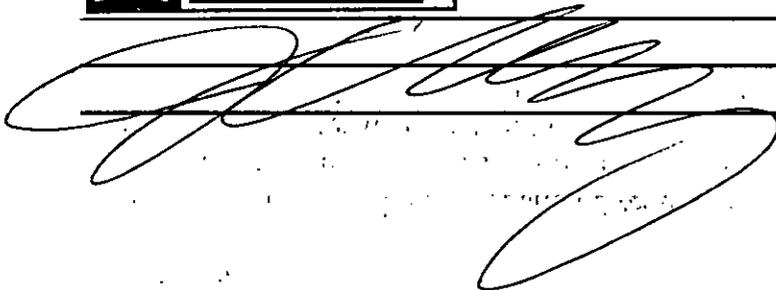
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 Ms. Judy Curry




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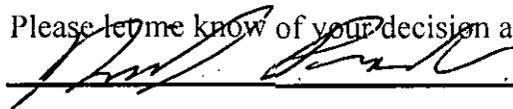
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Rich Prochida

[Redacted address information]

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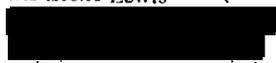
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 Ms Leslie Lewis



I support compassion for all living things.