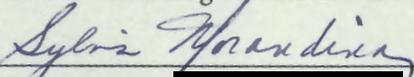


Petition to the UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT *of* AGRICULTURE

Dear USDA Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack,

It's been 18 months since Farm Sanctuary filed a petition calling on USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service to improve humane treatment of poultry at slaughterhouses immediately (petition 13-08). I am writing in support of this petition. With birds representing 8.8 billion of the 9 billion animals slaughtered annually in the United States, it's outrageous that USDA exempts poultry from protections provided under the Humane Slaughter Act and refuses to grant them any relief under the Poultry Products Inspection Act. Without USDA protecting them, countless birds are subjected to abuses that would warrant cruelty convictions under federal law if cows or pigs were the victims. USDA records indicate that almost a million chickens are boiled alive every year at slaughterhouses when they miss the neck-slicer and are dropped, still conscious, into the scalding water bath used for feather removal. It's time USDA creates long-overdue humane regulations for poultry slaughter. I urge you to act immediately.

Sincerely,


Sylvia Morandina 