



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

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

NOV 30 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has received your memorandum dated January 23, 2015, regarding liability for non-employee humane handling violations. The memorandum analyzes whether FSIS is legally required to hold livestock slaughter establishments responsible for inhumane handling by livestock transporters if the transporters are not establishment employees. The memorandum requests that FSIS issue a policy change, either through a regulation or directive, to stop holding establishments responsible for non-employee transporters that fail to humanely handle livestock on the premises of the slaughter establishment.

Your request is being considered as a rulemaking petition 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 15-03. 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/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,
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles E. Williams". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Charles E. Williams
Director
Issuances Staff
Office of Policy and Program Development