



Ms. Pamela Geller
Executive Director
American Freedom Defense Initiative
1040 1st Avenue, #121
New York, NY 10022

FEB 13 2012

Dear Ms. Geller:

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has received the petition you submitted on behalf of SIOA, a division of the American Freedom Defense Initiative. The petition requests that FSIS amend the regulations to require that the labels of ritually slaughtered meat or poultry products, and products containing ritually slaughtered meat or poultry, disclose the fact that the meat or poultry was derived from a ritually slaughtered animal. The petition also requests that FSIS require that the labels of these products identify the type of ritual slaughter employed, e.g., Kosher, Halal. The petition asserts that the absence of this information in the labeling of products derived from ritually slaughtered animals is an omission of a material fact that causes these products to be misbranded.

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 FSIS Office of Policy and Program Development for review and has been assigned petition number 12-02. 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, Policy Issuances Division, at (202) 720-5627 if you have any questions regarding the status of your petition.

Sincerely,

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