



## Consumer Federation of America

NEWS ADVISORY  
Monday, March 11, 2002

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### **Former Assistant USDA Secretary To Lead Meat Safety Protest; Food Poisoning Victims from 10 States to Participate**

Former assistant secretary of agriculture Carol Tucker Foreman will join food borne illness victims from 10 states in protesting Bush Administration meat safety policies outside the Agriculture Department Thursday morning, March 14. The group, which could swell to 60 people, will set up an informational picket at 11 a.m. and hold a news conference 30 minutes later. The events will take place on Jefferson Drive between 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> streets.

Foreman, who now heads food policy at the Consumer Federation of America, oversaw food safety and nutrition programs in the Carter Administration from 1977 to 1981. She has been an influential figure in food policy in this country for more than 25 years.

Joining Foreman at USDA will be members of S.T.O.P., or Safe Tables Our Priority, an organization of food borne illness victims, and other public interest and consumer groups. All are

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**What: Picket and News Conference Protesting USDA Meat Safety Policies**  
**When: 11 a.m., Thursday, March 14, 2002**  
**Where: Outside the Department of Agriculture, on Jefferson Drive, between 12<sup>th</sup> Street and 14<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Who: Carol Tucker Foreman, Consumer Federation of America; Laura Day, Safe Tables Our Priority; Caroline Smith DeWaal, Center for Science in the Public Interest; food poisoning victims from Georgia, Iowa, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia**

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concerned that the Bush Administration is not responding aggressively enough to a court decision that undercuts government's ability to regulate Salmonella and other pathogens in raw meat and poultry. The court said government cannot close a meat or poultry processing plant for repeatedly failing salmonella tests.

The Bush Administration has downplayed the impact of the decision, did not appeal it, and has failed to back legislation that would give the Agriculture Department explicit authority to close plants that fail tests for pathogens. The protest is being held on the same day that Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Tom Harkin (D.-Iowa) introduces the legislation that would specifically authorize USDA to close plants that repeatedly fail pathogen tests.