

SAFE FOOD COALITION

1620 I Street, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20006 202-797-8551

March 19, 2012

The Honorable Elisabeth Hagen
Under Secretary
Food Safety and Inspection Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 227-E
Washington, DC 20250

RE: Request for extension of public comment period

Dear Under Secretary Hagen,

The undersigned members of the Safe Food Coalition respectfully request a 60-day extension of the public comment period for FSIS' proposed rule regarding the Modernization of Poultry Slaughter Inspection (Docket No. FSIS-2011-0012). The undersigned organizations represent consumers, union members, whistleblowers and victims of foodborne illness, all of whom will be affected by the proposed rule.

We are requesting this extension due to the fact that the changes proposed by FSIS to the poultry slaughter inspection system are substantial and we require additional time to fully evaluate the impacts of those changes on the public health and prepare comments on the proposal. We also need additional time to fully review and comment on the supporting documents to the proposed rule provided by the agency.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that FSIS extend the public comment period regarding Modernization of Poultry Slaughter Inspection for an additional 60 days.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Center for Foodborne Illness Research & Prevention

Center for Science in the Public Interest

Consumer Federation of America

Consumers Union

Food & Water Watch

Government Accountability Project

National Consumers League

STOP Foodborne Illness

United Food and Commercial Workers International Union

Carol Tucker-Foreman
Founder, Safe Food Coalition