

July 2, 2024

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Re: Poultry Grower Payment Systems and Capital Improvement Systems; Proposed Rule; RIN 0581-AE18; 89 Fed. Reg. 49002 (June 10, 2024); Fair and Competitive Livestock and Poultry Markets; Proposed Rule; 0581-AE03; 89 Fed. Reg. 53886 (June 28, 2024).

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

The undersigned organizations, representing over 95 percent of U.S. chicken processing operations and thousands of poultry growers, respectfully request that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) grant 180-day extensions of the comment periods for the above-referenced proposed rules. For the reasons below, we believe such extensions are warranted.

Due to the breadth of new requirements outlined in the proposed rules, and in addition to the industry having re-adjusted thousands of contracts with farmers over the Christmas holiday, as well as the impacts they almost certainly would have on how integrators and contract farmers interact, the rules warrant careful scrutiny, analysis, and the submission of comprehensive comments. To that end, it is appropriate that additional time be allotted to the affected integrators and producers so that they may provide the most informed and substantive comments possible.

For the above-referenced reasons, we respectfully request that the comment period for the proposed rule entitled "Poultry Grower Payment Systems and Capital Improvement Systems" be extended by 180 days so that it closes on February 5, 2025. Additionally, we request that the comment period for the proposed rule entitled "Fair and Competitive Livestock and Poultry Markets" be extended by 180 days so that it closes on February 23, 2025.

Thank you for your consideration. If you need any information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

National Chicken Council
Alabama Poultry & Egg Association
California Poultry Federation
Delmarva Chicken Association
Georgia Poultry Federation
Mississippi Poultry Association
North Carolina Poultry Federation
Northwest Chicken Council
South Carolina Poultry Federation
Tennessee Poultry Federation
Texas Poultry Federation
The Poultry Federation (Arkansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma)
Virginia Poultry Federation

Cc: S. Brett Offutt, Chief Legal Officer and Policy Advisor, Packers and Stockyards Division, USDA
Agricultural Marketing Service Fair Trade Practices Program

Andrew Green, Senior Advisor, Fair and Competitive Markets

Michael Durando, Deputy Administrator, USDA Agricultural Marketing Service Fair Trade
Practices Program