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August 23, 2024

Dr. David E. Swayne  
Chair, Expert Panel on WOAHPoultry Definitions  
c/o USDA Agricultural Research Service  
950 College Station Road  
Athens, GA 30605

Dear Dr. Swayne,

Congratulations on your selection to chair the expert panel created to help redefine the World Organization for Animal Health's (WOAH) outmoded "poultry" terminology in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code. The United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) decision to tap your expertise highlights the prominent role that Georgia's 9th Congressional District plays in shaping agricultural policy.

On May 2, 2024, I led a letter along with 58 bipartisan Members of Congress to urge APHIS to prioritize revising WOAHP's poultry definition. We were encouraged to see such decisive action in the response we received from APHIS' Director Watson on June 11, 2024, including:

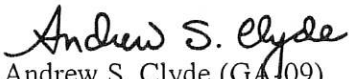
1. Elevating this issue to a 'priority one' status within WOAHP and forming an expert panel to draft a new definition.
2. Proposing you, an esteemed local expert who led USDA's Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory in Athens for over 25 years, to serve as chairman of this panel.
3. Engaging international counterparts, including at the May 2024 WOAHP General Session in Paris, to actively advocate for this change.
4. Maintaining strong export sales through trade agreements.

I'm confident that under your leadership, the panel will formulate a revised definition clearly distinguishing commercial poultry from backyard and wild flocks posing no disease threat by the May 2025 WOAHP General Session. Additionally, I hope the definition will appropriately distinguish types of poultry, i.e., broilers, turkeys, layers, ducks, game birds, waterfowl, etc. Currently, all these bird types are simply grouped under the umbrella term "poultry."

WOAHP's failure to implement such common-sense reforms has already cost U.S. producers hundreds of millions yearly in lost exports due to unjust trade restrictions. For Georgia's \$38 billion poultry industry, WOAHP's decision to revise the poultry definition to distinguish between commercial and backyard/wild flocks, and hopefully species genuinely supplying international trade, will protect our economic interests for generations.

Our community celebrates this honor with you. Should we have the opportunity to be helpful in the future, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, or my Agriculture Legislative Assistant Cam Erickson, at [Cameron.Erickson@mail.house.gov](mailto:Cameron.Erickson@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

  
Andrew S. Clyde (GA-09)  
Member of Congress