

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 3, 2024

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

Re: Salmonella Framework for Raw Poultry Products; Proposed Rule and Proposed Determination; RIN 0583-AD96; 89 Fed. Reg. 64678 (August 7, 2024).

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

As Co-Chairs of the Congressional Chicken Caucus, we respectfully request that the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) grant a 180-day extension of the comment period for its proposed rule and proposed determination – Salmonella Framework for Raw Poultry Products.

Given the complexity and length of the proposed rule and the fact that nearly all chicken marketed in the United States will be impacted, we believe it is essential to provide affected integrators and producers with additional time to offer thorough and meaningful feedback. Furthermore, the rule raises numerous questions due to its lack of clarity, making an extended comment period even more critical.

For the above-referenced reasons, we respectfully request that the comment period for the proposed rule and proposed determination entitled "Salmonella Framework for Raw Poultry Products" be extended by 180 days so that it closes on April 4, 2025.

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

Sincerely,



Steve Womack
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress

Cc: Paul Kiecker, Administrator, United States Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service
Rachel Edelstein, Assistant Administrator, Office of Policy and Program Development, United States Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service