

Dear Senator _____ Date _____

It has come to my attention through the USDA's April 25, 2005 release of the "Draft Program Standards" and the "Draft Strategic Plan" that it is the intent of the United States Government to extremely regulate my hobby of raising purebred poultry for exhibition. This behemoth program will remove many of my rights to the privacy of enjoying my hobby without government interference and will greatly affect the quality of my life. If these regulations are made mandatory, the added costs for my compliance will put a strain on my ability to continue the hobby that I love. Therefore, I strongly object to the implementation of these proposals.

I can understand the registration of my automobile but I am troubled by the possibility of the required registration and tracking of every chicken, duck, goose or turkey that I raise that I would like to transport to an exhibition.

My residence would have GPS coordinates and a 7-digit Identification Number. Each bird that I would like to take to an exhibition would have to have a 15 -digit Animal Identification Number. Movements of these birds will have to be tracked by filing all movement information with the Animal Repository. Every sale or death of each individual bird will also have to be reported. This type of surveillance has never been a part of the America that I know. These regulations will eliminate my hobby as well as the ability of any small-scale livestock owner to raise animals for food or for enjoyment.

These regulations will also have a tremendous affect on the young 4-H and FFA member who wishes to have one or two chickens for a project. They will have to comply with the regulations listed above. If these kids cannot have the farm experience on a small scale, how do we entice them to become the farmers that we all depend on to produce our food supply?

I am requesting that you investigate the USDA's desire for a mandatory National Animal Identification program and tracking system, and that you use whatever influence that you have to stop this intrusion into my personal liberties.

Sincerely

Sign Name _____

Name (Print) _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____