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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROSA L. DELAURO

3RD DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

March 22, 2017

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AND RELATED AGENCIES

Michael Young
Acting Deputy Secretary of Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Acting Deputy Secretary Young,

I write to express deep concerns over recent reports regarding a two-year Brazilian federal police investigation into the country's meat and poultry industry. The investigation alleges that a number of Brazilian health officials and meatpacking processors were colluding to export expired and adulterated meat products by issuing falsified health certificates, using "carcinogenic acids" to mask rotten meat, switching out labels on expired meat to change the expiration dates, and deliberately approving shipments of meat products contaminated with *Salmonella*. Given the public health threat this investigation uncovered, I urge your agency to immediately suspend all importation of Brazilian meat until the health and safety of their products can be assured.

Canada, Mexico, China, Japan, South Africa, Switzerland, and the European Union have moved to halt importation of Brazilian meats in light of the investigation. Earlier this week, USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced that the agency will increase its checks on Brazilian meat coming into the U.S. Given that Brazil is home to both the world's largest meat producer and poultry exporter, the actions of FSIS are shortsighted and inadequately address the ongoing food safety issue. The U.S. must not fall behind other countries when ensuring the safety of our food supply.

If we wait to halt importation for the first confirmed illness associated with these tainted meats, we risk serious harm to the stability of our nation's public health. The USDA should utilize the fullest extent of its authority to immediately suspend all importation of Brazilian meats until agency officials can guarantee that they are not adulterated, mislabeled, or expired. It is my hope that you will take this strong stand to protect the health and safety of all Americans.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter and I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rosa L. DeLauro".

Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress