



February 19, 2019

Rodney McMullen, Chair and CEO
Kristal Howard, Head of Corporate Communications and Media Relations
The Kroger Co.

Dear Mr. McMullen and Ms. Howard,

You might recall that People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) exposed that thousands of hens were found dead of suspected heatstroke, beaten, crudely gassed, and neglected on a Mahard Egg Farm operation in Oklahoma, prompting your company to suspend receiving supplies from that facility. However, PETA has learned that Kroger is again selling and branding eggs from Mahard.

Why is your company still sourcing eggs from a supplier that has exposed animals to extreme heat, beaten them, confined them to filthy and severely crowded cages, and left them to die and rot in cages and manure pits?

Claiming to suspend ties with Mahard but then quietly resuming taking supplies from it sends the message that Kroger cares more about public reputation and its bottom line than about animal welfare.

The local district attorney has warned Earnest Mahard III, owner of Mahard Egg Farm, of probable cause affidavits filed with his office alleging felony cruelty-to-animals offenses at the Oklahoma facility.

We urge you to reconsider your relationship with Mahard Egg Farm.

If we don't hear back from you by February 22nd, 2019, we'll be left with no option but to make this information public.

Best regards,

Dr. Katherine van Ekert
Corporate Liaison
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

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