

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

April 14, 2020

Kenneth Sullivan, CEO
Smithfield Foods, Inc.

Dear Mr. Sullivan,

After learning that Smithfield has shut down a pig slaughterhouse in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, after nearly 300 workers got sick with COVID-19, I'm writing with a lifesaving suggestion: Why not modernize and get ahead of the consumer curve? Shut down meat production permanently, and make the transition to producing only vegan meat instead. PETA would chip in to defray the cost of retraining your employees.

Filthy factory farms threaten the health of everyone—not just workers and consumers of meat—by providing a breeding ground for deadly diseases. Swine flu—which originated in farmed pigs—has killed hundreds of thousands of people worldwide. Likewise, bird flu can easily spread on a crowded chicken farm. Now, while the world is battling the current pandemic—which originated in a meat market—it's crucial that we each do our part, and that includes Smithfield, to make positive changes that will help prevent future outbreaks and protect people around the world.

Even before the current crisis, working on a kill floor was a dangerous and dirty job. Staff are obligated to keep up with absurdly fast slaughter speeds and to witness and participate in revolting practices, such as killing petrified pigs. Now they have to worry about becoming infected with COVID-19.

Smithfield already produces some vegan meats, so while the writing is on the wall, please start producing *only* vegan meats, which would support human health, the environment, and, of course, animals.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours,

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