



PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

April 14, 2021

The Honorable B. Alison Sosebee
District Attorney
Appalachian Judicial Circuit

Dear Ms. Sosebee:

I'm writing to request that your office (and the local law-enforcement agency, as you deem appropriate) investigate and file applicable criminal charges against the Pilgrim's Pride Corporation worker responsible for fatally hurling a chicken against a barrier on April 9, 2020, at the company's slaughterhouse located at 125 Industrial Blvd. in Ellijay. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) documented the incident in the attached report, which PETA just obtained via a public records request.

According to the report, a federal veterinarian saw the worker "forcefully" throw the "small live bird" into a barrier behind him, which caused the barrier to vibrate. The federal agent heard a "thud" when the bird struck the surface, then saw the bird fall to a grate, flap his or her wings, and begin "to gasp for air" before dying. The FSIS official notes that he or she had "discussed the issue of ... employees forcefully throwing" chickens many times before with Pilgrim's Pride management.

This conduct may violate Georgia Code § 16-12-4 (d) (1). The action from FSIS shows that this egregious cruelty doesn't constitute agricultural or food-processing practices that are permitted under federal or state law, which are otherwise exempt from prosecution. Importantly, FSIS action doesn't preempt criminal liability under state law for slaughterhouse workers who perpetrate acts of cruelty to animals.

Please let me know if I can assist you. I can be reached at DanielP@peta.org or 757-962-8231. Thank you for your consideration and for the difficult work that you do.

Sincerely,

Daniel Paden
Vice President of Evidence Analysis
Cruelty Investigations Department

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