



May 10, 2017

Dr. Rodney E. Watson, Superintendent
Spring Independent School District

Dear Dr. Watson,

We're writing with regard to Fisher Ham and Meat Co., a Spring, Texas, slaughterhouse that, according to your district's accounts payable register, you've done business with. The Texas Department of State Health Services recently documented concerns related to food safety and the mistreatment of animals, in violation of law, at this slaughterhouse. **We respectfully ask that you review the information below—which you may not have known about—and consider whether your district should support this business's practices with public funds.**

Public records obtained by PETA and available upon request show that hours after PETA alerted the agency to a whistleblower complaint, state officials cited the slaughterhouse for allowing workers to hit pigs on the head repeatedly with "excessive force" as they forced the animals to run to slaughter. State officials also cited Fisher Ham and Meat Co. for keeping 20 penned pigs in 1-foot of water, which spilled over into adjacent pens.

Three days later, inspectors cited the slaughterhouse again after seeing a worker dragging a lamb to slaughter by the ear. One official added that employees "had to be reminded numerous times ... to denature all inedible products sufficiently." Superiors verbally counseled two inspectors stationed at the slaughterhouse, reminding them to "keep ever vigilant and to not hesitate to ... immediately [stop] an inhumane incident."

The state's findings corroborated the allegations relayed to PETA's office by the whistleblower. Would you please carefully review the facts and consider whether your district wishes to use any more taxpayer dollars to fund this facility and its practices?

We look forward to your reply. I can be reached at ColinH@peta.org. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Colin Henstock
Investigations Specialist
Cruelty Investigations Department

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