



PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

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January 24, 2013

The Honorable Robert Haefner
New Hampshire House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Haefner,

Greetings from PETA. According to New Hampshire residents who attended last week's public hearing on House Bill (H.B.) 110, your proposed bill to stop undercover investigators on factory farms, you made an inaccurate statement regarding our [investigation of Aviagen Turkeys](#), Inc.'s factory farms in West Virginia. PETA's investigator repeatedly alerted a farm supervisor that workers were torturing, mutilating, and maliciously killing birds, but to no avail. PETA even brought the abuse to the attention of Aviagen's leadership, but the cruelty did not stop. Two business days after the conclusion of the investigation—not 13 months, as you claimed according to citizens at the hearing—PETA turned its evidence over to authorities, leading to the country's first-ever felony indictments for cruelty to turkeys on factory farms. In light of these facts, I'm writing to ask you to retract the reported inaccurate claim and consider meeting with me so that I can inform you about how investigations work.

By forcing those who document animal abuse on farms to reveal themselves within 24 hours of the first incident, H.B. 110 would prevent undercover investigators and whistleblowers from documenting and exposing such abuses as systematic and inherent on factory farms, which is critical to helping law enforcement build a strong case against animal abusers. During the Aviagen investigation, a supervisor met our investigator's alerts to abuse of turkeys with indifference, including by saying, "Every once in a while, everybody gets agitated and has to kill a bird." Over two months, PETA's investigator collected detailed evidence showing that these abuses—including that employees were stomping on turkeys' heads, punching them, shoving feces into their mouths, striking their heads against metal scaffolding, and much more—were not isolated incidents occurring "every once in a while" but routine and systematic cruelty to animals. State police and prosecutors used this meticulous evidence to obtain 23 indictments for cruelty to animals against three former employees, all of whom were convicted and one of whom was jailed.

Today's consumers are demanding better treatment of animals killed for food, not for the agriculture industry to cover up illegal cruelty to animals, which is why your hearing on H.B. 110 was packed so full of concerned New Hampshire residents opposed to the bill that there was only standing room and why similar bills in Florida, Nebraska, Indiana, New York, Tennessee, Minnesota, Illinois, and Arkansas (the second-biggest poultry state) have all died. I've been with PETA for 28 years and have worked with law enforcement on undercover cases across the country. I hope to hear that you'll retract the false statement that you reportedly made immediately and meet with me in the coming weeks to discuss this issue further. Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

Sincerely yours,

Dan Mathews
Senior Vice President
PETA