

**To:  
National Chicken Council  
U.S. Poultry & Egg Association  
National Turkey Federation**

**Joint Statement on the U.S. Poultry Industry Sustainability Workshop**

***Poultry industry's sustainability workshop shuts door to those who matter:  
consumers, farmers, workers, and animals***

Atlanta, GA  
24 May, 2016

The below signed organizations are concerned to learn that the poultry industry has excluded key stakeholders in a critical discussion of sustainability in its industry. The US Poultry & Egg Association, the National Chicken Council, and the National Turkey Federation, are hosting a U.S. Poultry Industry Sustainability Workshop that will be held on May 24th and May 25th in Atlanta, GA. Attendees include key poultry companies, retailers, food service companies and restaurants. They exclude virtually every group working to create solutions with regard to consumer sentiment, workers, farmers and animal welfare, despite requests to join the discussion.

Transparency and inclusion are critical to a sustainable food and farming system. Exclusion, on the other hand, leads to lack of trust and missed opportunities for the best outcome. Investors are increasingly watching how the food industry manages the risks in its supply chain, especially around animal welfare and the treatment of workers and farmers. The future of the industry relies on good management of these areas, and that will require a transparent and collaborative approach.

It should be noted that the five areas of sustainability as defined by other industry efforts include: Animal Health and Well-Being, Food Safety and Quality, Environmental Impact, Worker Health and Safety, and Food Affordability. As the poultry industry embarks on such a working group, it would seem best practice to include, rather than exclude, groups from each of these sectors in order to ensure the best outcome.

The current trend to keep stakeholders and consumers in the dark through ag-gag laws and through exclusion from critical collaborations such as this meeting will only work to further degrade trust between consumers and the food and farming industry. The undersigned groups request that the sustainability workshop and any future such discussion open their doors to a more collaborative process, whereby those most impacted by the poultry industry are included in the discussion shaping the future not just for the industry, but for our food and farming system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leah G".

Leah Garces, Compassion in World Farming

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Shapiro".

Paul Shapiro, Humane Society of the United States

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Weaver".

Mike Weaver, Contract Poultry Growers Association of the Virginias

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sally Lee".

Sally Lee, Rural Advancement Foundation International

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Oliver Gottfried".

Oliver Gottfried, Oxfam America

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda".

Amanda Hitt, Government Accountability Project, Food Integrity Campaign