



# Animal Welfare Institute

900 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20003

May 25, 2022

Dr. Robert Reeder, District Manager  
Denver, CO Field Office  
1 Denver Federal Center  
Bldg. 45, Door S3  
P.O. Box 25387  
Denver, CO 80225

Via email to [Robert.reeder@usda.gov](mailto:Robert.reeder@usda.gov)

**Re: Request for Investigation into Illegal Idaho Falls, ID Slaughterhouse**

Dear Dr. Reeder:

I am contacting you on behalf of the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) to request investigation of an illegal slaughterhouse operated by Luis Zamora at 561 Kathleen Street, Idaho Falls, ID, 83402. AWI was founded in 1951 as a nonprofit public interest organization dedicated to reducing animal suffering and promoting the welfare of animals, including those used in agriculture. As part of AWI's goal to promote improved farming systems, the organization monitors slaughter activities and advocates for strong enforcement of state and federal humane slaughter laws.

The undercover investigation, conducted by Animal Recovery Mission (ARM), revealed that over the past 25 years, Zamora has operated an illegal slaughter facility in which he holds animals for slaughter and sells the uninspected and likely adulterated product locally.<sup>1</sup> The investigation revealed disturbing details, many of which violate the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (7 U.S.C. § 1902) and its regulations, the Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA) (21 U.S.C. § 459), the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) (21 U.S.C. § 610), and/or Idaho's animal cruelty code<sup>2</sup>, including:

- Animals dragged by ropes, choked, stabbed, hammered, and having their throats cut without first being rendered insensible to pain;
- Animals shackled, hoisted, and cut while still conscious;
- Emaciated cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, chickens, turkeys, and geese living amongst garbage and in squalid, crowded conditions covered in their own excrement;
- Animals kept in pens with rotting animal carcasses;
- Animals deprived of clean drinking water and food for extended periods of time
- Animals fed waste produced in slaughtering other animals; and

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<sup>1</sup> Animal Recovery Mission, *Operation Idaho Falls* (May 17, 2022) <https://animalrecoverymission.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Final.pdf>; <https://vimeo.com/712659327>.

<sup>2</sup> See generally Idaho Code § 25-3502(5), 3504, 3518, 3520(A).

- Likely violations of sanitary standards for the processing and sale of meat and poultry products.

While AWI has no first-hand knowledge of the conduct occurring at this property, the video and photographic evidence prepared by ARM's investigators is extremely compelling. AWI encourages your office to investigate and prosecute offenses to the fullest extent of the law, especially given the egregious and longstanding nature of these violations.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting, please contact me via email at [erin@awionline.org](mailto:erin@awionline.org) or by phone at 202-446-2147.

Sincerely,

*Erin Sutherland*  
Erin Sutherland  
Staff Attorney  
Farm Animal Program