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Animal Concern is a pressure group registered as a non-profit making Limited Company
(Co. No. SC109126) established in 1988 as Animal Concern (Scotland) Ltd.
It incorporates the Scottish Anti-Vivisection Society which was founded in 1876.

To All Members of Parliament representing Scottish constituencies.

Monday, 20 July 2020

Dear Member of Parliament,

No doubt you have had many requests from constituents wanting you to participate in the debate and vote on the Trade Bill later today.

In particular I hope you agree it is important to make it clear that you oppose the import of food into the UK from countries which do not at least meet our food production standards.

One issue which has been highlighted in the media is the importation of meat and chicken which has been produced in the USA and other countries where hormones can be used to force even quicker weight increase in animals already intensively bred to grow at cruelly unnatural rates.

There is also the practise of washing chickens in a solution of chlorine to try and reduce the chance of consumers contracting serious illnesses from birds reared in filthy factory farms and killed in unclean abattoirs. Chemical washes are used because it is cheaper than bringing the farms and slaughter houses up to better hygiene standards.

In particular I ask you to vote for New Clauses 4, 7 and 11, and amendment 20, to the Trade Bill.

If possible, either today or at a future date, could you also raise with the Government the need to ensure that no animal products are ever imported into the UK from countries which do not, at the very least, have and enforce animal welfare and environmental protection laws as strong as those in the UK?

This is not just about welfare of animals and protection of the environment. Increased animal welfare standards cost money as does proper disposal of effluent. Allowing the import of animal products produced in systems which fall far short of our own puts our producers at a serious financial disadvantage and drives down wages in our agriculture industries forcing Government to subsidise the industry by providing benefits to give workers a basic standard of living.

A few weeks ago the Scottish Government announced that from next year it will be illegal for salmon farmers to kill seals. This was the result of a campaign I was heavily involved in which resulted in the USA announcing a ban on the import of fish from Scotland unless killing seals was made illegal here. I am under no illusion that the US Government did this just to protect seals. They did it to protect salmon farmers in the USA who had to invest substantial sums of money installing and maintaining predator exclusion nets while their Scottish competitors only had to buy a gun and bullets and apply for a free seal shooting licence from the Government.

If the USA can ban imports that do not meet their standards then we should ban imports that do not meet ours.

Kind regards,

John F. Robins,

Animal Concern