



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

JAN 31 2020

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2413 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman DeLauro:

Thank you for your letter of November 21, 2019 regarding JBS S.A., a Brazilian-owned meat packing company, and its U.S. subsidiary, JBS USA. I apologize for the delayed response.

In your letter, you note the past and current law violations by JBS S.A., J&F Investimentos S.A., and two of its owners in Brazil. You also allege that similar illegal practices by JBS S.A. and its affiliates have occurred in the United States and assert that both the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) currently are engaged in investigating the activities of J&F Investimentos S.A. You express your concern that, in spite of these alleged activities by JBS S.A. and its affiliates, the United States awarded millions of dollars in procurement contracts to JBS in recent years. You request that I ask the Inspector General to open an investigation of these practices in order to proceed afterwards with a suspension and debarment of JBS S.A. and its affiliates.

Given that you indicate DOJ and SEC are far down the path with their investigations, then they are fully aware of all potential remedies at their disposal, including an option for suspension and debarment. Accordingly, to avoid any conflict with those investigations, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will not take any action in that regard, unless requested by DOJ and SEC.

I respectfully suggest those two entities may better address your concern.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sonny Perdue". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sonny Perdue  
Secretary