

STATEMENT OF DR. SARAH JEAN MASON  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2012

I deeply regret that actions I have taken have reflected poorly on the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. I was not asked by anyone at the Department to contact a colleague, fellow veterinarian, and personal friend of mine for over thirty years, Dr. Eric Gonder. Nobody at the Department was aware of the actions I took and I never discussed my call with any Department employee. I recognize the seriousness of the situation and do not want my actions to negatively influence the public's perception of my colleagues at the Department. As a veterinarian, I have dedicated my career to protecting the health of the poultry flocks of this state and any implication to the contrary is without merit.

My rationale for contacting Dr. Eric Gonder was to immediately curtail avian abuse. Further, Dr. Gonder, as the staff veterinarian for Butterball, was directly responsible for insuring animal cruelty, avian abuse, was not occurring at the poultry farms. I knew that, as a fellow professional veterinarian, Dr. Gonder would want to quickly be made aware of any alleged abuse.

This 17<sup>th</sup> day January, 2012.

Sarah Jean Mason, DVM PhD  
Sarah Jean Mason, DVM, PhD

Sworn to and subscribed Before me  
This 17 day of January, 2012.

Tammy M. Strickland  
NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires:  
11-25-14

