

BRUCE L. BRALEY

1ST DISTRICT, IOWA

TRANSPORTATION AND  
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OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT  
REFORM COMMITTEE

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TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 15, 2008

Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary of Labor  
U.S. Department of Labor  
Frances Perkins Bldg., 200 Constitution Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20210

Julie Myers  
Assistant Secretary  
Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
425 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Matt M. Dummermuth  
United States Attorney for the Northern District of Iowa  
Department of Justice  
Hach Bldg, Suite 400, 401 1st Street, S.E.  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401-1825

Dear Secretary of Labor Chao, Assistant Secretary Myers, and U.S. Attorney  
Dummermuth:

Last November, I wrote to Acting Secretary Connor of the U.S. Department of Agriculture concerning Agriprocessors, the world's largest kosher meat processor based in Postville, Iowa. At the time, the focus of my attention was on the 250-plus Noncompliance Records (NRs), as well as Letters of Warning to Agriprocessors dealing with food safety.

On Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, the Federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) executed a worksite enforcement action at this same facility and arrested more than 300 workers on criminal and immigration violations.

It has been reported that the Department of Labor (DOL) was involved in a separate ongoing investigation of possible labor law violations, including illegal child labor, in the Agriprocessors plant. On Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> the *Des Moines Register* reported that 12 juveniles between the ages of 15 and 17 were detained during the enforcement action at Agriprocessors.

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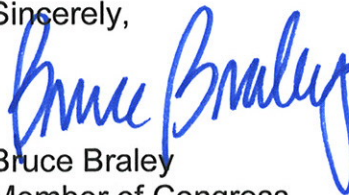
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In a separate article in yesterday's *Des Moines Register*, reporter Clark Kauffman summarized Agriprocessors "history of noncompliance with state and federal regulations related to food safety, pollution and workplace safety at its Postville facility..." (see attached article). The most recent violations included citations by the Iowa Department of Labor Services for 39 violations of workplace safety rules and a proposed \$182,000 fine. The article states, "Federal officials put the case 'on hold.'"

I would like to know whether ICE communicated with DOL prior to the enforcement action on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Also, what is the status of these DOL investigations? Is there any coordination going on between ICE, DOJ, and DOL as they presumably continue their investigations related to Agriprocessors?

It is important that both the ICE and DOL investigations continue. I firmly believe that any possible violations of labor law, immigration law, and workplace safety laws should be investigated and prosecuted to the full extent of the law. I urge you to look into this matter and look forward to hearing from you within the next ten days. Thank you for your time and cooperation.

Sincerely,



Bruce Braley  
Member of Congress

- Cc: Kristine Iverson, Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor
- Cc: Ricardo Velazquez, Office of Congressional Relations, Immigration and Customs Enforcement
- Cc: William E. Moschella, Assistant Attorney General for Office of Legislative Affairs, U.S. Department of Justice