



MID-ATLANTIC
MIDWEST

**National Joint Council of
Food Inspection Locals**
American Federation of Government Employees
Affiliated with the AFL/CIO

NORTH CENTRAL
NORTHEAST

NORTHERN
SOUTHERN

SOUTHWEST
WESTERN



The National Joint Council of Food Inspection Locals (NJC), representing more than 6,000 USDA food inspectors nationwide, joins with petitioners to Attorney General Gregoire in seeking enforcement of state humane laws protecting animals inside IBP's Wallula plant.

While NJC members are the individuals charged by Congress with enforcing federal Humane Slaughter Act regulations in this and all USDA-inspected slaughterhouses, we are often prevented from carrying out this federal mandate. Dramatic increases in production line speeds; lack of support from supervisors in plants, district offices, and at USDA headquarters with regard to enforcement of these regulations; new inspection policies which significantly reduce our enforcement authority; and little to no access to the areas of the plants where animals are killed, have all significantly hampered our ability to ensure compliance with humane regulations.

For this reason, the NJC is petitioning Attorney General Gregoire to enforce state laws similar to those that fall under our purview. We believe that this is the only way to ensure compliance with humane slaughter requirements.

The NJC joins with the Humane Farming Association and other petitioners in requesting that Washington Attorney General Gregoire initiate an investigation of violations at the IBP-Wallula facility and take all appropriate enforcement actions.

For the National Joint Council

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Arthur C. Hughes'.

Arthur C. Hughes
Vice Chairman