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Dear Officials Of Greene County And The State Of Iowa:

I thank the offices of the Greene County Sheriff and Attorney for their probe into alleged animal abuse at a Minnesota-owned MowMar hog factory, operated by Suida Health and Production, in Greene County, Iowa. I understand PETA investigators working at this farm filed a complaint on September 15, 2008.

Among those videotaped mistreating pigs, six people now face 22 counts of livestock neglect and abuse. I commend the prompt action of county officials and urge all Iowa lawmakers to uphold a no-tolerance policy for abuse within the livestock industry. Please follow through with the arrest and prosecution of these employees. Their egregious cruelty has garnered worldwide attention.

As you are aware, PETA's video depicts workers at this Hormel supplier battering pigs with metal gate rods. One supervisor thrusts a cane into a sow's vagina and smacks her back some 17 times. Clothespins and fingers are poked into pigs' eyes and faces. Piglet's heads are crushed against a floor and they're tossed into a bin to die.

A worker beats a piglet's face with the rim of a herding board, a method that investigators saw repeatedly. An employee even spray paints the nostrils of a nursing sow.

"Beat on the bitch. Make her cry," a supervisor advises, as he kicks a young pig's face, abdomen and genitals. The dismissive nature of these workers indicates their cruelty is commonplace.

While Iowa's livestock neglect and abuse laws are classified as misdemeanors only — the arrest, prosecution and punishment of these employees sends a loud message. For those charged with aggravated misdemeanor, please seek maximum penalties of two years in prison and a \$6250 fine. Employees charged with simple misdemeanor should also be penalized to the law's full extent, with 30 days in county jail and a \$625 fine.

I encourage Iowa authorities to lead the way in ending senseless cruelty to animals on factory farms.

Thank you,