

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 16, 2025

Douglas L. Parker
Assistant Secretary of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
200 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Assistant Secretary Parker,

We write to inquire about the status of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) investigation into the tragic explosion that occurred at the Tyson Food poultry plant on December 27, 2024, in Camilla, Georgia, and to request a briefing on the results of this investigation at the appropriate time.

The December 27 explosion at the Tyson Foods poultry plant, the largest employer in Mitchell County, Georgia, killed one bystander and severely injured several employees.¹ The plant's operations are integral to the community, and this tragedy has profoundly affected many of the plant's employees and community's residents. Meat and poultry plants consistently report a higher rate of severe injuries when compared to other occupations that are typically considered hazardous, such as sawmills, building construction, and oil and gas drilling.² Ensuring the safety of hard-working Georgians is our top priority, which is why this incident is of grave concern.

Congress created the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to ensure safe and healthy working conditions for Americans by setting and enforcing workplace safety rules. OSHA's rigorous enforcement of the nation's workplace safety rules is, therefore, crucial to its mission of ensuring companies comply with workplace safety standards.

While we understand that the investigation into this explosion is ongoing and will require time to complete, we respectfully request regular updates and a full briefing on the results of this investigation at the appropriate time. This transparency will be essential to providing affected families and the broader community with greater insight into the cause of the explosion and any progress being made to ensure such tragedies never happen again.

Thank you for your leadership on this matter. We look forward to working with you on behalf of the workers and families of Camilla, Georgia.

Sincerely,



Senator Raphael Warnock



Senator Jon Ossoff



Congressman Sanford Bishop

¹ Mirtha Donastorg, *Explosion at Tyson Foods Plant in Southwest Georgia Leaves 1 Dead*, Atlanta Journal-Constitution (Dec. 27, 2024), <https://www.ajc.com/news/business/explosion-at-tyson-foods-plant-in-southwest-georgia-leaves-one-dead/OBUHI26QCNFPJBUBFRQDL5N4AQ>.

² *Report: 27 Workers a Day Suffer Amputation or Hospitalization, Acc. to OSHA Severe Injury Data from 29 States*, National Employment Law Project (Apr. 27, 2017), <https://www.nelp.org/osha-severe-injury-data-report>.