

DPI Supports Maryland Family Farmers Legal Defense Fund, Inc.

Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc. (DPI) has joined with other agricultural groups and companies to raise money for the legal defense of the Worcester County, Maryland Alan and Kristin Hudson family. The Hudsons are involved in ongoing litigation initiated by the cash rich, out-of-state Waterkeeper Alliance that is being assisted free of charge by the taxpayer supported University of Maryland Environmental Law Clinic.

The Waterkeeper Alliance, in a federal suit in Baltimore, claims the Hudson family farm is in violation of the Federal Clean Water Act. The action against Mr. and Mrs. Hudson is viewed as a first step by the New York-based activist organization to use the courts to push its radical agenda.

The DPI Board of Directors approved a \$13,000 donation to the Maryland Family Farmers Legal Defense Fund, Inc. to defend family farms and to help raise money for the Hudson's legal defense, estimated at more than \$130,000. This is the second DPI donation to offset the Hudson's legal expenses. Last year, DPI donated \$5,000. "It's a known fact that the Waterkeeper Alliance is determined to end contemporary animal agriculture in this country and the Hudsons appear to be collateral damage in their larger efforts," said Bill Satterfield, DPI's Executive Director. "We need to highlight their tactics and put them on notice that we won't allow it to happen."

Linked to the legal defense fund is the SaveFarmFamilies.org, which is raising awareness around the Waterkeeper Alliance bankruptcy-by-litigation tactics. It has released a video on www.savefarmfamilies.org to depict just how damaging misguided litigation can be for farm families like the Hudsons.

"The outcome of the Waterkeeper's litigation will impact not only the Hudson Farm, but will resonate with all family farmers, suppliers, and related businesses for years to come," said Lee Richardson of the Wicomico County Young Farmers and Ranchers and member of SaveFarmFamilies.org member. "I think the SaveFarmFamilies.org video really puts the impact of this tragic situation involving the Hudsons into perspective and is necessary to show how the Waterkeeper's litigation could destroy family farming in America forever."

The video outlines the detrimental impact that the Waterkeeper's litigation has had on everyday life for the Hudsons, including financial burdens caused by legal bills, stress-related medical bills, and frozen credit for their farming operation due to the lawsuit, which they have been engaged in since early 2010.

"This lawsuit has serious consequences for real people and we are so glad to welcome our new supporters," said Richardson. "We are going to do whatever it takes to make a stand against these radical groups who put their narrow agenda ahead of the facts, regardless of the consequences for the family farmer who works hard to put food on the table for the American consumer."