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Kim Boretsky
779 Stratford Drive
State College, PA 16801

Commissioner Jane Henney
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane
Room 1061 (HFA-305)
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Commissioner Henney:

The Center for Food Safety and numerous other organizations and individuals in January of last year filed a legal petition with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) asking that the approval of genetically engineered bovine growth hormone (rBGH) be withdrawn. I believe their request is not unjustified and feel that it should be removed from the market immediately.

Canadian scientists discovered that the FDA failed to investigate studies showing that rBGH could lead to potential health problems. Some of the results found where that these studies found that the oral feeding of rBGH led to thyroid cysts and prostrate activity in male rats. The study also concluded that significant animal health problems were associated with rBGH use in dairy cows including a 50% risk increase of lameness and a 25% risk increase in udder infections. This analysis has confirmed earlier scientific studies and provided evidence that milk and dairy products derived from rBGH-treated cows pose significant potential human health impacts such as increased cancer risks and the development of antibiotic resistance.

I was to the understanding that the FDA acts to protect the American public by ensuring the safety and quality of our food supply, therefore I find it disturbing that the FDA allows rBGH on the market even though Canada and the European Union refuse to approve this dangerous product. They have seen it's potential health risks and know enough to not present it to the public. The Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act states that if health hazards caused by animal drugs, such as those revealed about rBGH, are present then the FDA is required to withdraw such products from the market. I support the Center for Food Safety and other organizations that have filed a legal petition seeking that the FDA fulfill this obligation.

Please take action to remove this potentially hazardous product from the market as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Kim Boretsky

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