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September 19, 1999

Dr. Jane Henney, Commissioner
U.S. Food & Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1471
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Henney,

I am very concerned that routine, non-therapeutic agricultural use of antibiotics is creating strains of bacteria that are resistant to those antibiotics.

The health and welfare of the U.S. population should be more important to the FDA than the bottom line of agribusiness and the drug companies.

You are allowing countries in Europe to move ahead of us in safe and sanitary food production methods just to provide a few drug manufacturers a larger sales market.

It is very important for you to examine these issues from a total picture point of view and make the health of the American people a top priority. Weakening the effectiveness of our medical arsenal should be something we prevent, not promote.

For the sake of maintaining the effectiveness of our medical arsenal for ourselves and our children, I urge you to prevent the routine, non-therapeutic use of antibiotics in U.S. meat and poultry farming.

Please let me know what your position is on this and what actions you intend to take in dealing with this issue.

Thank you for your time and attention.

[Redacted signature block]

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DR. JANE HENNEY, COMMISSIONER
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