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455 Hall District Rd.
Somers, Conn 06071
November 22, 1999

'00 JAN -6 A10:52

FDA Commissioner Jane E. Henney
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Ms. Henney:

It has recently been brought to my attention by the Center for Science in the Public Interest, that a new antibiotic, Synercid, was approved by the Food and Drug Administration. This antibiotic will be used to replace Vancomycin, an antibiotic used to treat bacterial infections after surgery. Vancomycin is starting to fail, as more than half the strains of Enterococcus faecium are resistant to it. I am especially interested as I had bilateral knee joint replacements 2 1/2 years ago; developed an infection in both legs, and was treated with Vancomycin. Now CSPI tells me that a close cousin of Synercid, Virginiamycin, has been routinely fed to poultry (to speed growth) for over a decade. This might explain why bacteria are starting to become resistant to Synercid. To keep this from happening I urge the government to Prohibit livestock producers from routinely adding medically important antibiotics to animal feed to promote growth.

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99P 0485

Thank you Sincerely yours,
Lorraine M. Wetherell

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