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December 9, 1999

Commissioner Jane Henney, M.D.
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1471
Rockville, MD 20857s,

Dear Commission Henney:

Overuse of antibiotics as growth promoters in livestock has been linked to the emergence of antibiotic-resistant diseases.

Many of the drugs used to enhance growth in chickens, pigs, and cattle are the same as, or closely related to, those used to treat people. Fearing a rise in untreatable infectious diseases, the European Union has banned all growth-promoting uses of antibiotics used in human medicine.

I believe that the evidence is already clear that any use of antibiotics other than to treat disease runs the risk of rendering them useless for that, their most important purpose. TO allow their use for any other purpose is irresponsible.

I urge the FDA to follow the European Union's lead and move immediately to ban animal uses of growth-promoting antibiotics used in human medicine.

Sincerely yours



Bruce Hawkins

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