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March 15, 1999

Jane E. Henney, M.D., Commissioner
Food And Drug Administration
Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Henney:

I am writing to demand that the FDA review the safety of rBGH (the genetically engineered hormone injected into cows to force them to produce more milk.)

A new study by HealthCanada, the Canadian counterpart to the FDA has found major gaps in the human safety review of Monsanto Corporation's rBGH. HealthCanada rejected the use of rBGH because of health risks to cows, and called for more studies into "exactly what happens in digestion and whether allergic reactions are possible" in humans. The study also cited an indication that the hormone invaded the prostate in rats.

FDA's findings in some instances have been directly contradicted by the Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives of the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization, and the World Health Organization, as well as the Canadian human health panel. This does not inspire trust in the FDA's study of rBGH.

As the mother of three young children, this concerns me gravely. Infants and young children may be most at risk from the potential health problems of rBGH milk - and mine have been drinking it all or most of their lives.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Our health is at risk.

Sincerely,


Meg Ryan

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