

332U W. HORTER ST.
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PHILA, PA 19119-3152

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JAN 11, 2001

JANE E. HENNEY, M.D.
COMMISSIONER
US FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION
5600 FISHERS LANE
ROCKVILLE, MD 20857-0001

DEAR DR. HENNEY;

YOU ALREADY KNOW THE PRESENT AND POTENTIAL THREAT TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH FROM ANTIBIOTIC-RESISTANT STRAINS OF BACTERIA, AND YOU PROBABLY AGREE THAT CURRENT LEVELS OF ANTIBIOTIC USE IN AGRICULTURE CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE RISE OF THOSE STRAINS. I WAS NOT AWARE UNTIL RECENTLY THAT THERE IS NO RELIABLE PUBLIC DATABASE OF HOW ANTIBIOTICS ARE USED IN AGRICULTURE. ACCORDING TO THE UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS, THE FDA HAS ALREADY RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR SUCH A DATABASE, BUT HAS NOT YET ESTABLISHED ONE. THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE WELL-RESEARCHED UCS. ESTIMATE OF 24.6 MILLION POUNDS FOR LIVESTOCK USE AND THE INDUSTRY-REPORTED FIGURE OF 17.8 MILLION POUNDS FOR ALL AGRICULTURAL USE OF ANTIBIOTICS HIGHLIGHTS THE PARTICULAR NEED FOR AN UNBIASED GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE FOR THE COLLECTION AND REPORTING OF SUCH DATA.

I AM WRITING TO REQUEST THAT WITHIN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS, YOU TAKE THE APPROPRIATE ACTIONS TO CREATE A SYSTEM FOR COLLECTING AND REPORTING DATA ON THE TOTAL QUANTITY, CLASS, INDICATION, DOSAGE, AND TREATMENT

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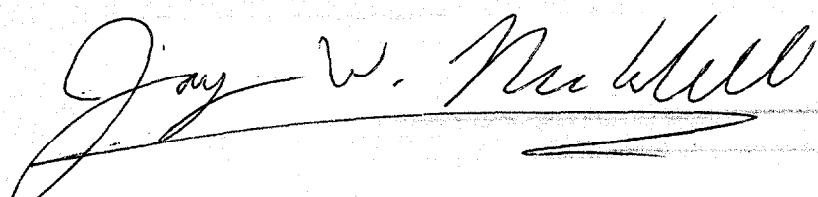
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PERIOD OF ANTIBIOTICS USED FOR BOTH HUMANS AND LIVESTOCK IN THE UNITED STATES. THIS WILL ALLOW US TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT RATIONAL, WORKABLE STRATEGIES FOR REDUCING THE OVERALL USE OF ANTIBIOTICS, WITH THE OVERARCHING COMMITMENT BEING TO SAFEGUARD THE LONG-TERM HEALTHY AND WELL-BEING OF THE PUBLIC.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION OF THIS MATTER. I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR REPLY ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT OF MY LETTER.

SINCERELY,



JAY W. MCCAHILL

Mr. Jay W. McCahill
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20857-0001 *[A series of vertical bars of varying heights, likely a barcode or postal code indicator.]*