

Thursday, January 11, 2000
17 DuBois Street
Walkill, N.Y. 12589-3113-6

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Jane E. Henney, M.D.
Commissioner
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857-0001

Dear Commissioner Henney,

I wish to add my voice to the many voices of concern about the growing use of antibiotics in our nation's food supply.

The ever-increasing use of these drugs is slowly but surely abolishing the use for antibiotics in the treatment of infectious diseases in our citizens. The growing number of drug-resistant micro-organisms are a potentially devastating threat to the public health of all Americans.

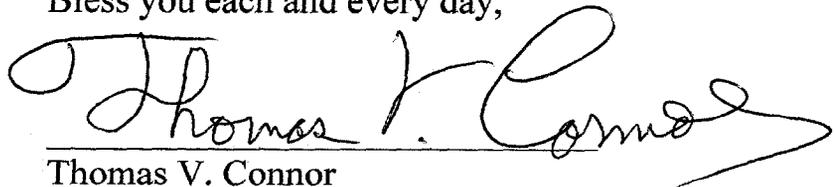
But, alas we suffer from a dearth of reliable research on this topic of immense clinical importance and the data currently available on the widespread use and quantities used in agricultural processes necessary for scientists to explore the nexus between antibiotic use and the development of drug resistance is sorely lacking and inadequate to ascertain what rational strategies are needed to rein in the use of these substances to safeguard the public health.

It has been reported by the Union of Concerned Scientists that an incredible 24.6 MILLION POUNDS (70% of all antibiotics used in the U.S.) of antibiotics are fed to healthy animals for growth promotion. The industry reports 17.8 million pounds used in livestock alone.

In my humble opinion, the FDA should move immediately to put in place a system that collects basic on agricultural uses of antibiotics in the U.S., which should include the class, dosage, indication and treatment period.

Thank you for allowing my input on this vital matter and may God assist you and your excellent staff in your unappreciated, but tremendously needed work always.

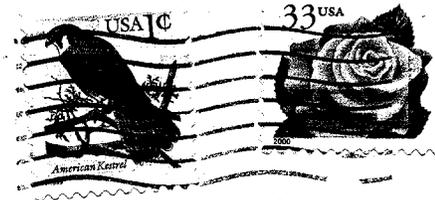
Bless you each and every day,


Thomas V. Connor

997-0435

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Thomas Connor
17 Dubois St.
Walkill, NY 12589



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Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857-0001

20857+0001

