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January 5, 2001

Jane Henney, M.D., Commissioner
Food & Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Room 1471
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Re: Use of Antibiotics in Livestock Feed

Dear Ms. Henney:

I am writing to request that the Food and Drug Administration ban human antibiotics from being used to make livestock grow faster.

I understand that many of the same drugs that doctors use to treat illnesses are also used to raise pigs, chickens and cattle. These antibiotics, however, are not just used to treat sick livestock, but are being fed daily to healthy animals because producers believe that the animals will grow faster and reach slaughter weight sooner.

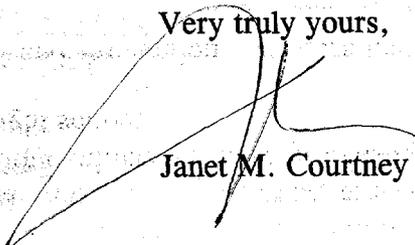
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers the overuse of antibiotics in animal agriculture the principal cause of antibiotic resistance in food-borne bacteria like salmonella and campylobacter. By unnecessarily pumping huge quantities of antibiotics into healthy animals, producers are creating conditions where bacteria can quickly develop resistance to these drugs. When this happens (one strain of salmonella is now resistant to 5 antibiotics), doctors have fewer tools to combat human disease.

The European Union has already acted, banning all growth promoting uses of antibiotics that have a role in human medicine. In June, the World Health Organization repeated its call for the termination or rapid phasing out of the use of antimicrobials for growth promotion if they are also used for treatment of humans.

It appears that the FDA is dragging its feet. While it studies this problem, how many more diseases will become untreatable?

I request that the FDA act now.

Very truly yours,

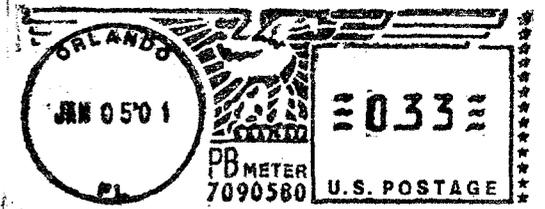

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