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4199 '97 AUG -1 P1:19

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
12420 Parklawn Dr. Rm.1-23
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Sirs:

Re: Comments on Development of Options to Encourage Animal Drug Approvals for
Minor Species and Minor Uses

As a commercial farmer of new species such as abalone and seabass, there are precious few drugs available for use on these, and many other aquatic species. I urge the USDA, in its compliance with the Animal Drug Availability Act of 1966, to encourage the development of new drug approval methods.

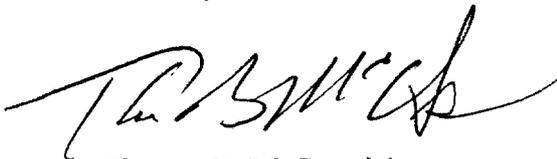
Regarding the determination of a minor species or a minor use Sec. 514.1(d)(1):

As a user of new drugs our company would accept conditional approvals and postmarket surveillance as a tradeoff for requiring less in the way of premarket target animal safety and effectiveness studies for new animal drugs for minor species and minor uses.

Economic incentives to drug companies, universities, non-profits, and farmers would encourage these groups to peruse testing and approvals for labeling modification for minor species or minor uses. At the present time, if a farmer or association wants to pursue an investigational new animal drug (INAD), they must provide their own funding.

The U.S. agriculture industry has benefited from the availability of therapeutants. If we are to build a strong fish farming sector in the U.S., our fish farmers should have access to the same tools that are now available to both U.S. agriculture and to foreign aquaculture.

Sincerely,



Thomas B. McCormick

97N-0217

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