June 28, 1999
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852
Re: Docket No. 99D-0557

6063 '99 JUL -2 P1:42

To whom it may concern:

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidelines issued April 6, 1999 instituted a de facto ban on nonhuman primate xenografts because they would expose patients and the public to "significant infectious disease risk" (Docket No. 99D-0557)

However, these guidelines failed to address dangers with other species. Transgenic pigs are considered the source animals of choice for xenotransplants despite the existence of over 25 diseases in pigs that can infect humans. Pigs are no safer than nonhuman primates. Examples include swine influenza, the Porcine Endogenous Retroviruses, paramyxovirus and the new "Nipah" virus in Malaysia.

There are safer, more cost-effective, and humane alternatives to xenotransplantation. These include investing heavily in preventative medicine programs to reduce the need for all transplants in general, and increasing the pool of human organs as many European countries have done through legislation.

I respectfully demand that the Department of Health and Human Services ban xenoplantation from all nonhuman species immediately

Sincerely,

Rochelle Goldman
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