June 14, 1999

Jane Henney, M.D.
Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Md. 20857 8539 '99 JUL 12 P3:29

Dear Doctor Henney,

As we are all well aware, a public health crisis is looming - diseases long controlled by antibiotics are becoming more difficult to treat. To preserve these priceless drugs, doctors and hospitals must prescribe them judiciously. But animal agriculture must also do its part, because scientists are convinced that drugs given to animals play a role in antibiotic resistance in human diseases.

The World Health Organization recommends a ban on the use of medically important antibiotics to promote animal growth. The United States should also adopt this position. In March, the Union of Concerned Scientists cosigned a Center for Science in Public Interest (CSPI) petition to the FDA to withdraw approvals for the use of medically important antibiotics to promote growth in animals. Withdrawal of the drugs for growth promotion would still allow their use in sick animals. C1229

I support the CSPI petition because I think the FDA should favor sick children over cheap chicken.

Sincerely yours,
Colette Mittelstaedt

Ethel May van Santen
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