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Jane Henney, Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1471
Rockville, MD 20857

January 7, 2000

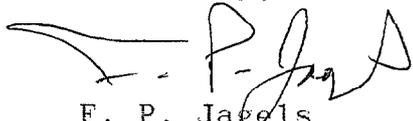
Dear Ms. Henney:

I urge you to ban the animal use of growth-promoting antibiotics. The dangers are explicit and proven. The antibiotics used to enhance growth in livestock are the very same drugs used to treat diseases in humans. Many human diseases are now becoming resistant to these antibiotics.

Our economy has transformed itself during the past 60 years forcing us to reconsider our priorities. When our economy was actually based on production, productivity did have a major impact on the advancement of wealth, and thus the welfare of people. In our post-production economy, however, all forms of productivity enhancement (of which growth-promoting antibiotics is but one example) are greatly diminished as wealth generators. Moreover, efforts to advance productivity actually end up producing negative returns to the human capital that is today the basis of our knowledge economy. As our economy evolves, policy must evolve with it.

The rest of the advanced world is in favor of a ban on the animal use of growth-promoting antibiotics. I urge you to join them.

Sincerely,



F. P. Jagels
Evergreen Economic Research
RD 1, Box 184
Cabot, Vermont 05647

99P-0485

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JANE HEWLEY, COMM.
FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION
5600 FISHERS LANE, ROOM 1471
ROCKVILLE, MD 20857

