Dec. 23, 1999

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Dear Dr. Henney:

I would like to urge you, as the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, to ban animal uses of growth-promoting antibiotics used in human medicine. That would include those currently in use, as well as those facing potential approval. The possibility that the use of these antibiotics as growth promoters in livestock being linked to the emergence of antibiotic-resistant diseases is a very real one; hence the European Union's ban on the use of such drugs. It seems to me that if we are not certain of the effects of these drugs to our health, we should opt for caution. The food industry can operate without the use of these drugs - obviously European countries do. I think any rational person would prefer to spend a little more for food that is considered safe over food raised in questionable, controversial ways. Thank you for your careful consideration of this matter.

C2288

Sincerely,

Brian Atkinson

99P-0485

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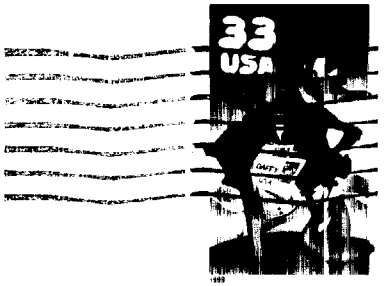

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