

May 26, 1999

Michael A. Friedman, M.D.
Acting Director, Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD. 20857

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Dear Sir:

We wanted to write this letter to express my concerns over the sale and use of the Monsanto Corporation's bovine growth hormone (rBGH). We recently became aware of some of the facts concerning how the FDA approved the use of this hormone. Our feeling is that without extensive long-term testing of the hormone, and the milk produced by cows that are given the hormone, we may be doing a grave disservice to the children in this country. Dairy products are given to children, including our own, under the pretense that the products are wholesome and beneficial to their growth.

I am from an agrarian background, and as such, I am not unsympathetic to dairy farmers who try to gain productivity and efficiency. However, if these same farmers were aware of the possibilities of the harmful effects of milk produced by cows given this hormone, they would not be entirely to blame. Most farmers take pride in the fact that they produce a product that is healthy for children to consume. If the farmers were made aware of the possibilities of harmful effects of this hormone, we feel like many of them would not be willing to use it.

We would like to respectfully ask that the FDA suspend the Monsanto's Corporation license to sell this bovine growth hormone, until more thorough testing is done. This testing should be done so that the company's data is not the only data that is supplied to the study. Objective, independent long term studies should be done that can show conclusively if there are any harmful effects to consuming milk produced by cows that are given the growth hormone. Dairy products have a reputation for being both wholesome and beneficial; it would be much worse for farmers to have their reputation damaged by use of a hormone that enhances the cow's ability to produce milk, but makes that milk unhealthy for consumers.

Sincerely,

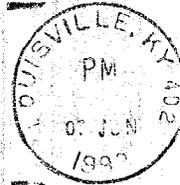


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