HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA EDWARD J. MARKEY, MASSACHUSETTS RICK BOUCHER, VIRGINIA EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK FRANK PALONE, JR., NEW JERSEY BART GORDON, TENNESSEE BOBBY L. RUSH, ILLINOIS ANNA G. ESHOO, CALIFORNIA BART STUPAK, MICHIGAN ELIOT L. ENGEL, NEW YORK ALBERT R. WYNN, MARYLAND GENE GREEN, TEXAS DIANA DEGETTE, COLORADO VICE CHAIRMAN LOIS CAPPS, CALIFORNIA MIKE DOYLE, PENNSYLVANIA JANE HARMAN, CALIFORNIA TOM ALLEN, MAINE JAN SCHAKOWSKY, ILLINOIS HILDA L. SOLIS, CALIFORNIA CHARLES A. GONZALEZ, TEXAS JAY INSLEE, WASHINGTON TAMMY BALDWIN, WISCONSIN MIKE ROSS, SRKANSAS DARLENE HOOLEY, OREGON ANTHONY D. WEINER, NEW YORK JIM MATHESON, UTAH G.K. BUTTERFIELD, NORTH CAROLINA CHARLES MENCON, UTAH G.K. BUTTERFIELD, NORTH CAROLINA CHARLE MELANCON, LOUISIANA JOHN BARROW, GEORGIA

DENNIS B. FITZGIBBONS, CHIEF OF STAFF
GREGG A. ROTHSCHILD, CHIEF COUNSEL

ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

## U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce Washington, DC 20515-6115

JOHN D. DINGELL, MICHIGAN CHAIRMAN JOE BARTON, TEXAS
RANKING MEMBER
RALPH M. HALL, TEXAS
FRED UPTON, MICHIGAN
CLIFF STEARNS, FLORIDA
NATHAN DEAL, GEORGIA
ED WHITFIELD, KENTUCKY
BARBARA CUBIN, WYOMING
JOHN SHIMKUS, ILLINOIS
HEATHER WILSON, NEW MEXICO
JOHN B. SHADEGG, ARIZONA
CHARLES W. "CHIP" FICKERING, MISSISSIPPI
VITO FOSSELLA, NEW YORK
ROY BLUNT, MISSOURI
STEVE BUYER, INDIANA
GEORGE RADANOVICH, CALIFORNIA
JOSEPH R. PITTS, PENNSYLVANIA
MARY BONO MACK, CALIFORNIA
GREG WALDEN, OREGON
LEE TERRY, NEBRASKA
MIKE FERGUSON, NEW JERSEY
MIKE ROGERS, MICHIGAN
SUE MYRICK, NORTH CAROLINA
JOHN SULLIVAN, OKLAHOMA
TIM MURPHY, PENNSYLVANIA
MICHAEL C. BURGESS, TEXAS
MARSHA BLACKBURN, TENNESSEE

May 20, 2008

Mr. Fred Hassan Chairman and CEO Schering-Plough Corporation 2000 Galloping Hill Road Kenilworth, NJ 07033

Dear Mr. Hassan:

Under Rules X and XI of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Committee on Energy and Commerce and its Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations are investigating misleading and deceptive practices in direct-to-consumer (DTC) advertising of prescription pharmaceutical products.

In our hearing on May 8, 2008, we asked several questions related to DTC advertising, but we did not obtain adequate assurances that your company's future business practices would reduce misleading and deceptive DTC advertisements.

Therefore, we ask if you will commit Schering-Plough Corporation, and any joint venture to which Schering-Plough Corporation is a party, to the following guidelines:

- 1. Follow the American Medical Association's guidelines regarding the use of actors and health professionals in DTC advertisements.
- 2. To not market products in DTC advertisements until a valid outcomes study of the product is completed and results are released.
- 3. Place a two-year DTC advertisement moratorium on new prescription drug products, as recommended by the Institute of Medicine.
- 4. To not market off-label uses for prescription products in DTC advertisements.

5. Add the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) toll-free MedWatch phone number in all your DTC advertisements.

We also ask that you answer one additional question that was not asked at the hearing:

6. If a product of Schering-Plough Corporation and any joint venture to which Schering-Plough Corporation is a party, is required by FDA to include a "black box" warning in its labeling, will Schering-Plough Corporation and any joint venture to which Schering-Plough Corporation is a party, commit to add these "black box" warnings in DTC ads for any such product?

Given the failure of the Schering-Plough Corporation/Merck & Co., Inc. company witness to answer these questions at the May 8, 2008, hearing, your response as Chairman and CEO of Schering-Plough Corporation is required. Please deliver your written response to the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, Room 316, Ford House Office Building. We ask for your immediate response as we are considering a second hearing on DTC advertising, and your answers will determine the nature as well as the role of you and your company in the hearing.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions about this request, please contact us or have your staff contact John F. Sopko or Paul Jung with the Committee staff at (202) 226-2424.

Sincerely,

John D. Dingell

Chairman

Bart Stupak

Chairman

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

cc: The Honorable Joe Barton, Ranking Member Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable John Shimkus, Ranking Member Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations