



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

Archive - 22
cc: Sotko
D Nelson
J Arling
K Chapm
RHOB file

The Honorable John D. Dingell
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-6115

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter dated August 24, 2007, cosigned by Chairman Bart Stupak, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, regarding the investigation into the adequacy of the efforts of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to protect the safety of the Nation's food supply. In your letter, which I received on August 29, you requested FDA's responses to several questions relating to FDA's plan to outsource hundreds of jobs to private companies.

In order to respond to your request in a timely manner, I have asked my staff in the Office of Legislation to immediately begin coordinating the timely collation of information from the relevant components of our Agency. Some of the information you requested may take additional time to produce. Please be assured it is my intention to respond at the soonest possible time. The Office of Legislation will schedule the interview and keep your staff apprised of the status of our response to your request. A similar letter will be sent to Chairman Stupak.

I appreciate your interest in this issue. If you have any questions, please contact our Office of Legislation at 301- 827-3793.

Sincerely,

Andrew C. von Eschenbach, M.D.
Commissioner of Food and Drugs