

Subject: quit wasting our money

Date: Friday, May 25, 2007 3:18 PM

I am writing regarding are currently spending hundreds of millions of our country's tax dollars that are spent every year needlessly testing chemicals on animals. As you are aware, our government has only one agency devoted to the development of non-animal test methods—the Interagency Coordinating Committee for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM). Sadly, in its 10 years of existence, ICCVAM has approved exactly one non-animal test method that originated in the U.S.

This is not because there are no non-animal test methods. To the contrary, ICCVAM's European counterpart has approved dozens of non-animal test methods. Yet our government is working to keep U.S. policies in the Dark Ages. ICCVAM finds a reason to ignore or to refuse to approve even those methods that are accepted—and in widespread use—internationally.

ICCVAM has become a major obstacle to the adoption of more sophisticated and accurate test methods. ICCVAM clings to decades-old animal-poisoning tests that were never proved to be relevant to humans to begin with. This causes two major problems. First, animals are being killed needlessly, when non-animal tests could be adopted instead. Second, public health is jeopardized, as non-animal test methods have been demonstrated to be more accurate, more sensitive, and more protective of public health.

I am clueless as to why you continue this practice or testing on animals. I do not want my tax dollars spent in this way, and I am tired of you jeopardizing our health with arcade testing methods. Please move into the real world and pursue non-animal testing methods.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Martin