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Washington, DC 20515-6115

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July 2, 2007

The Honorable Andrew C. von Eschenbach, M.D.
Commissioner
U. S. Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857-0001

Dear Dr. von Eschenbach:

Under Rules X and XI of the Rules of the United States House of Representatives, the Committee on Energy and Commerce and its Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations are investigating the ability of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to protect the American public from excessive risks associated with prescription drugs and unsafe food. As part of those investigations, we are examining FDA inspections of foreign manufacturing facilities, especially in China and India, that may not be adequate to protect against contaminated products entering the United States.

We have instructed the Committee staff to accompany FDA personnel in one or more inspections of drug manufacturing plants and food processing plants in both China and India. The staff expect to accompany FDA inspectors, where possible, on inspections already scheduled.

Accordingly, we request that you provide a schedule of all upcoming foreign inspections in China and India, including the names of the firms being inspected, the locations of the facilities, the types of inspection, and the proposed dates of inspection. This request should be considered effective for all potential congressional staff travel associated with foreign inspections for the balance of the 110th Congress.

The Honorable Andrew C. von Eschenbach, M.D.

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Please provide the requested information as soon as possible. If you have any questions regarding these requests, please contact us or have your staff contact Chris Knauer or David Nelson of 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 Ed Whitfield, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations