ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

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

JOHN D. DINGELL, MICHIGAN
CHAIRMAN

April 4, 2007

The Honorable Andrew C. von Eschenbach, M.D.
Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Dr. von Eschenbach:

The House and Senate recently received the recommendations of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and interested stakeholders with regard to the reauthorization of the Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA). Given the importance of this program, we will work to ensure reauthorization of this valuable program, which is set to expire on September 30, 2007.

As the Committee on Energy and Commerce conducts the PDUFA reauthorization process, we believe it is important that the Congress understand the specific time frame in which work must be completed in order to avoid any personnel disruptions in this program.

We request that you provide to us a date certain by which the FDA would need to issue a reduction- in- force (RIF) notice under part 351 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, to those affected employees should it appear that PDUFA reauthorization will not be completed by its expiration under current law.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you and other stakeholders as we move forward in the reauthorization of PDUFA. We ask that you please respond to this inquiry by no later than Tuesday, April 17, 2007.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please have your staff contact John Ford with the Committee on Energy and Commerce staff at (202) 226-2424.

Sincerely,

John D. Dingell
Chairman

Frank J. Pallone, Jr.
Chairman
Subcommittee on Health

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

The Honorable Nathan Deal, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health