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**Perez, Thomas****From:****Sent:** Friday, April 05, 2002 1:53 PM**To:** perezt@cder.fda.com**Subject:** Lotronex-Advisory Committee Mtg. April 23, 02

April 5, 2002

Dear Tom Perez and Advisory Committee,

I will try to keep this brief albeit it is hard with a long history of IBS. Since childhood I have been embarrassed by diarrhea episodes, having to exit classrooms urgently needing to go to the bathroom.

All my adulthood I have tried many medications, endured platitudes from doctors and painful exams. The IBS creates extremely painful cramps and diarrhea which can last for hours...I can't tell you how many evening movies I missed as I sat on the pot. We often joked that I should just put a small TV in the bathroom..since I never make it back after the commercial! Dinners out with friends were always risky and often declined. Since Lotronex I can eat anything, and go anywhere in peace. Living a normal life for the first time. I cried when the drug was recalled, and I don't cry easily!

I am a professional female, 47 years of age. I now earn a six figure income. I push myself very hard so it has always been depressing when these episodes would slow me down. For years I thought it was in my head that I was so driven that I caused this. The best thing that happened with the Lotronex is that I finally learned it had nothing to do with my nerves or what I had eaten. It is a disease.....and a curable one. I cannot explain enough the joy this past year has been since Lotronex. When it was recalled I quickly went down to the pharmacy and refilled all that I could, I have been sparingly using 1 tablet a day which worked perfectly. Now for the past few months fear of running completely out I am now down to 1/2 tab every day. One tab is preferable but 1/2 tab keeps the cramps away.

I recently got another promotion, I sell million dollar new homes, now I am so fearful because the community I asked for is a longer drive from home....without lotronex will I often be late due to early morning episodes...will I loose my job because of it.. I am a very productive citizen and pay a tremendous amount of taxes....is it better that I give up and get on disability?? Let me decide on the risks I am willing to take. I would buy this illegally if it was available I would do almost anything to have it back.

Please, please feel free to call me during your meeting and/or distribute this testimony to the committee. I have talked with Victor at length by phone and he jotted down my history, but that was over a year ago.

Sincerely,  
Linda Hoffa

4/5/02