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**STEPHEN D. COVINGTON, M.D., INC.**  
*PRACTICE LIMITED TO:*  
*GASTROENTEROLOGY • HEPATOLOGY • ENDOSCOPY*  
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March 8, 2002

Tom Perez  
FDA/CDER HFD - 21  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Mr. Perez:

I am a gastroenterologist in private practice in Ventura, California. I have several patients who had disabling problems with chronic diarrhea related to irritable bowel syndrome that was inadequately controlled until they were able to take the drug Lotronex.

For these patients, Lotronex was a remarkable "Godsend." In each case the patients had complete resolution of the problem with diarrhea without any adverse reactions to the drug.

I would strongly favor the release of Lotronex again with whatever restrictions are necessary to prevent exposure of patients who might develop severe adverse reactions to the medication, so that the people who have gained this tremendous benefit from the drug will not be forced to return to their pre-treatment health status.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Stephen D. Covington, M. D.