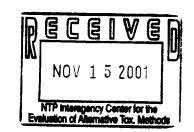
12 NOVEMBER 2001

DR. WILLIAM STOKES, DIRECTOR NICEATM (MD EC-17), NIEHS P O BOX 12233 RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC 27709-2233



DEAR DR STOKES:

I AM WRITING IN REGARD THE LD50 TEST (IN WHICH ANIMALS ARE FORCED FED CHEMICALS TO ESTIMATE THE DOSE NEEDED TO KILL 50% OF THEM) IS SLOWLY BEING PHASED OUT INTERNATIONALLY AND IS BEING REPLACED WITH TESTS THAT USE FEWER ANIMALS OR NONE AT ALL.

A RECENT WORKSHOP HELD BY THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES(NIEHS), A GOVERNMENT AGENCY THAT RESEARCHES THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS, ADDRESSED THE FEASIBILITY OF GOING ONE STEP FURTHER AND REPLACING THE ANIMAL TESTS WITH IN-VITRO CELL CULTURE TESTS.

SCIENTISTS AT THE NIEHS WORKSHOP HAVE AGREED TO A PARTIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF IN VITRO TESTING, TO SET A "STARTING DOSE" FOR THE LETHAL POISONING TESTS, WHICH WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF FURTHER REDUCING THE NUMBER OF ANIMALS IN THE TESTS.

I AM ASKING THE NIEHS TO BEGIN EFFORTS TO COMPLETELY REPLACE LETHAL DOSE TESTING WITH NON ANIMAL, IN VITRO TESTING METHODS.

GOD BLESS AMERICA,

WAYNE MANCINO