

January 10, 2001

1005 Midvale Avenue
Mt. Airy, Maryland 21771

7 3 4 7 '01 JAN 25 10:10

Jane Henney, M.D., Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1471
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Henney:

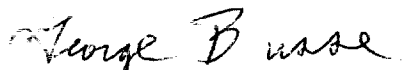
I am writing to you to voice my deep concern about the overuse of antibiotics in our society, which I believe effects the ability of these drugs to be effective in curing human disease.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers the overuse of antibiotics in animal agriculture the principal cause of antibiotic resistance in food-borne bacteria like salmonella and campylobacter. By unnecessarily pumping huge quantities of antibiotics into healthy animals, producers are creating conditions where bacteria can quickly develop resistance to these drugs.

The widespread use of antibiotics is limiting humans in their ability to use these drugs to fight bacterial diseases and is endangering humans to newly developed strains of bacteria which are becoming resistant to antibiotics. "Already there are people who are sick and dying of bacterial infections" that resist antibiotic treatment, says Herbert Waxman, M.D., vice president of education of the American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine. He warns this development "could take us back to the pre-antibiotic era. If nothing is done, resistant bacteria will keep growing."

I strongly urge that you take the steps the European Union has already taken, and ban all growth-promoting uses of antibiotics in animals that have a role in human medicine!

Sincerely,


George Busse

c 2866

SSP-0485

George D. Busse, Jr.
1005 Midvale Avenue
Mt. Airy, Maryland 21771



Jane Henney, M.D., Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1471
Rockville, MD 20857

