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ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

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

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February 15, 2007

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The Honorable Andrew C. von Eschenbach, M.D.
Commissioner
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857-0001

Dear Dr. von Eschenbach:

Reference is made to our letter of January 29, 2007, (attached) opening the inquiry by the Committee on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations into the adequacy of the efforts of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to protect the Nation's food supply. In that letter, as the initial step in our investigation, we requested that you arrange a briefing for the Subcommittee by Dr. David Acheson and other officials of the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, the Office of Regulatory Affairs. That briefing is currently scheduled for Friday, February 23, 2007. At that time our attention was drawn to the Agency's efforts regarding the E. coli found in vegetables. Today we learn that there is a major outbreak of salmonella in peanut butter.

We specifically request that all information available to the FDA regarding this latest threat to our food supply be included in the briefing. Specifically, the Subcommittee is interested in answers to the following questions:

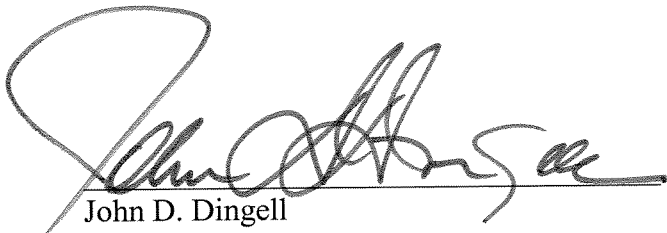
- How did it happen?
- Who was responsible?
- When was the last FDA inspection of the processing facility(ies)?
- What were the results of that inspection(s)?

The Honorable Andrew C. von Eschenbach, M.D.
Page 2

- What are the dimensions of the public health risk? and
- What is being done to rectify the situation and ensure similar outbreaks do not occur at other facilities?

After the briefing the staff will inform you of any documentation or further interviews that may be needed. Should you have any questions regarding this request, please contact David Nelson with the Committee majority staff at (202) 225-2927 or Alan Slobodin with the minority Committee staff at (202) 225-3641. Your assistance with these requests is appreciated.

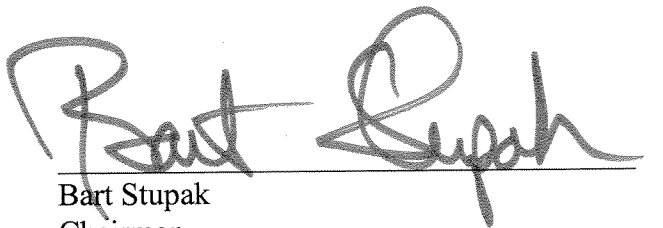
Sincerely,




John D. Dingell
Chairman



Joe Barton
Ranking Member



Bart Stupak
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations



Ed Whitfield
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Attachment