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ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS

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

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DAVID V. MARVENTANO, STAFF DIRECTOR

June 26, 2001

**Do You Want American Consumers To Buy Drugs
Processed By A Person With Hepatitis In A Filthy
Vermin-Infested Kitchen Overseas?**

VOTE "NO" ON THE SANDERS AMENDMENT

Dear Colleague:

This year, the vote on the Sanders Amendment may be the most important public health vote cast by Members of Congress. The amendment, offered under the guise of reimportation, would pose grave dangers to the American public and could subject consumers to counterfeit drugs made from boric acid, floor wax, and leaded highway yellow paint, and vaccines made from contaminated river water.

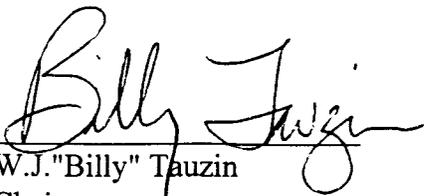
This is no exaggeration! These examples were all documented at a hearing held on June 7, 2001, before the Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. We are very concerned that American consumers may die if the Sanders Amendment passes.

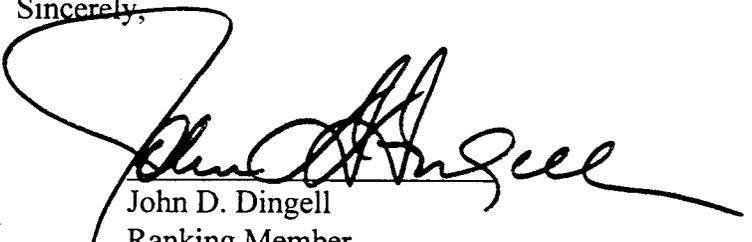
The Sanders Amendment goes much further than the reimportation provision which was considered last year. It would entirely de-fund the ban on reimportation contained within the Prescription Drug Marketing Act (PDMA) -- without creating any public health safeguards. The PDMA was enacted in 1988 after the Committee on Energy and Commerce learned of various counterfeit drugs, such as birth control pills and oral antibiotics, being imported into the United States under the guise of reimportation.

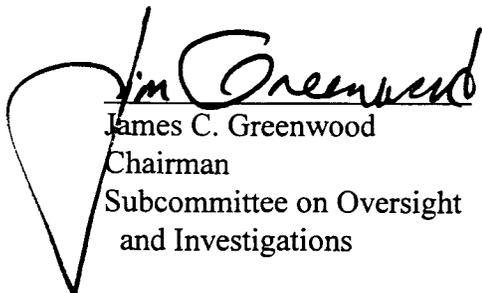
The threat posed by counterfeiters has only increased since 1988. And since the U.S. is the largest and most lucrative market in the world, it is the ultimate target for counterfeiters. In fact, we are already seeing counterfeit drugs in America. This month the FDA announced it was investigating four cases of counterfeit prescription drugs making their way into U.S. pharmacies.

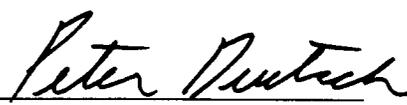
At the hearing, the FDA declared that it was "virtually impossible for the agency to assure that [imported] drugs are legitimate, especially as authenticity testing is highly expensive," and that the FDA is so overwhelmed that they can only review a tiny fraction of drugs presently being mailed into the United States for personal use. The Sanders Amendment would open the floodgates for potentially-counterfeit drugs, jeopardizing consumers. We urge you to oppose the Sanders Amendment when it is considered on the floor of the House.

Sincerely,


W.J. "Billy" Tauzin
Chairman


John D. Dingell
Ranking Member


James C. Greenwood
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigations

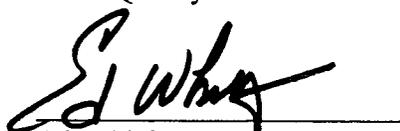

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Joe Pitts
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