

May 6, 2013

The Honorable Joe Pitts
Chairman
House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pitts and Ranking Member Pallone:

Thank you for scheduling this week's subcommittee markup of H.R. 1407, the reauthorization of the Animal Drug User Fee Act (ADUFA).

The Animal Health Institute represents companies that make medicine for animals. Since a majority of known diseases are shared by humans and animals, the products we make to help keep animals healthy play a vital role in contributing to public health.

The reauthorization of ADUFA will continue to provide the Food and Drug Administration the resources necessary to maintain and improve the stringent approval process for animal medicine. It will allow for efficient review of new and innovative products to allow our pets to live longer and healthier lives and will contribute to food safety by keeping food animals healthy.

This bill benefits a wide array of stakeholders. FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine receives additional resources to meet its public health mission. Animal health sponsors benefit from a stable and predictable review process that allows them to make informed decisions about research and development investments. Veterinarians, livestock and poultry producers and pet owners all benefit from access to new and innovative medical advance to treat and prevent diseases in animals. Consumers reap the food safety benefits that result from the availability of additional tools to keep animals healthy.

We appreciate the support Congress has given to this program over the past decade. We urge you to pass this reauthorization in a timely manner and reject any changes that would jeopardize this bill so this program can continue without interruption.

Sincerely,



Alexander S. Mathews