



Governmental

Relations Division

1910 Sunderland Place, NW

Washington, DC

20036-1642

phone 202.789.0007

800.321.1473

fax 202.842.4360

AVMA Headquarters

1931 N. Meacham Rd.

Suite 100

Schaumburg, IL

60173-4360

phone 847.925.8070

800.248.2862

fax 847.925.1329

www.avma.org

January 31, 2012

Mr. Jeffrey Zients
Deputy Director for Management
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Zients:

I am writing on behalf of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) to express our belief that if food safety should be under the oversight of a single existing federal agency, then it should be located within the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A single agency should have the expertise and resources to manage the full scope of the food quality assurance program. This includes production, processing, distribution, sales, consumption, and consumer education through outreach such as cooperative extension services.

Veterinarians have a vital role in the advancement and maintenance of food safety for the benefit of society. The veterinary profession is the only health profession that is actively involved in all aspects of the food chain from production of food animals on the farm to the consumption of food products derived from those animals. It is the policy of the AVMA to help assure that the supply of foods from animal origin, including meat, poultry, fish and shellfish, dairy, and eggs, shall be safe and wholesome. AVMA also believes the food safety system should be based on science, including a comprehensive process of ante- and post-mortem evaluations which include detection of physical defects, infectious agents, pharmaceuticals, and chemical residues.

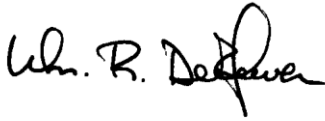
To implement our policy on food safety, the AVMA advocates cooperative federal and state regulatory and educational action, including a coordinated, integrated, unified food safety regulatory program that is effectively enforced and that cooperates closely with state and municipal programs.

Established in 1863, the AVMA is the largest veterinary medical association in the world. As a not-for-profit association established to advance the science and art of veterinary medicine, the AVMA is the recognized national voice for the veterinary profession. The association's more than 82,500 members comprise approximately 83 percent of U.S. veterinarians, who are involved in a myriad of areas of veterinary medical practice including private, corporate, academic, industrial, governmental, military, and public health services.

The AVMA appreciates the continued ability to remain engaged in dialogue on the topic of food safety. We welcome the opportunity to further provide additional

insights and feedback. The AVMA's policy on food safety can be found in its entirety at http://www.avma.org/issues/policy/food_safety.asp. For additional clarification or questions, please contact Dr. Christine Hoang at 800-248-2862 ext. 6742, or at choang@avma.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. Ron DeHaven". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "W".

W. Ron DeHaven, DVM, MBA
Executive Vice President and CEO

c. Bernadette Dunham, DVM, PHD, Director, FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine
Margaret Hamburg, MD, Commissioner of Food and Drugs, FDA
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture, USDA
Gregory Parham, DVM, Administrator of APHIS, USDA
Alfred V. Almanza, Administrator of FSIS, USDA

CNH/jm/asm/rdr