

April 29, 2025

Commissioner Martin Makary  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
10903 New Hampshire Ave  
Silver Spring, MD 20993

cc: Secretary Robert Kennedy, U.S. Health & Human Services  
Acting Director Timothy Schell, Center for Veterinary Medicine

Dear Commissioner Makary,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to urge you to respond to the recently filed petition for reconsideration and ban or restrict ractopamine in meat production. Ractopamine is a dangerous drug used to rapidly grow muscle in cows, pigs, and turkeys that also causes animals' bodies to suffer tremors, lesions, and deterioration, elevates meat consumers' heart rates, and harms the environment.

Ractopamine is banned or restricted in meat production in at least 160 countries, including China and all countries in the European Union. Nonetheless, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved ractopamine for use in cows, pigs, and turkeys raised for meat in the U.S. and continues to allow ractopamine residue levels in meat that exceed those adopted by the United Nations' food standards body, the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The FDA's approval for ractopamine relied primarily on safety studies conducted by the drugmaker itself.

Animals given beta-agonists such as ractopamine face increased likelihood of experiencing painful injury, inhumane treatment, and extreme stress. Evidence, including that contained within the FDA's own files, also links ractopamine to human heart and respiratory issues in meat consumers and farm workers, increased risk of pathogen contagion, and intensified environmental pollution through seepage and runoff to ground and surface waters. Still, ractopamine usage has been estimated in 60–80 percent of all pigs raised for food in the U.S.

**To better protect human health, animals and the environment, we urge FDA to respond to the petition and immediately reduce or eliminate allowable levels of ractopamine in farmed animals.**

We welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your staff to discuss this issue further. Please reply to Molly Armus ([marmus@foe.org](mailto:marmus@foe.org)) who can help coordinate a meeting.

Signed,

Friends of the Earth  
AEL Advocacy  
Alliance for Natural Health USA  
Animal Partisan  
Animal Wellness Action

Animals Aotearoa  
Arba  
Associated Humane Societies  
Berkeley Organization for Animal Advocacy  
Blackberry Creek Farm Animal Sanctuary  
Center for a Humane Economy  
Chilis on Wheels  
Compassion in World Farming  
Compassionate Action for Animals  
Connect For Animals  
DC Voters for Animals  
Direct Action Everywhere  
Earthjustice  
Ensure Viable Environment  
Family Farm Defenders  
Farm Forward  
FarmSTAND  
Fauna Films  
Food & Water Watch  
Food Revolution Network  
Global Wellness Forum  
Glyphosate Facts  
Godspeed Horse Hostel Inc  
Green America  
HEAL (Health, Environment, Agriculture, Labor) Food Alliance  
Humane Action Pennsylvania  
International Vegan Film Festival  
Kewaunee CARES  
LEAP (Leaders for Ethics, Animals, and the Planet)  
Leave It Better Media  
Maine Animal Coalition  
Mercy For Animals  
National Co+op Grocers  
NC Animal Advocates United  
NC Environmental Justice Network  
Organic Consumers Association  
Our Hen House  
Plant Powered Delaware  
Pro-Animal Future  
Public Interest Research Group  
Social Compassion in Legislation  
Strategic Action For Animals  
The Humane League  
Tindakan  
United We Eat  
Voters For Animal Rights