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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3807

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Ms. Carol M. Browner
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Ms. Browner:

On March 15, 1999, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) deadline for voluntary compliance for the High Production Volume (HPV) chemical testing was reached. This program, which has had little publicity, intends to have private industry spend about \$700 million on testing of 2,800 chemicals, many of which have already been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The HPV plans to use a large number of animals to test these chemicals. I am deeply concerned about this line of procedure. Not only is it unnecessary, but it also discounts the advances that companies have made to minimize the use of animals in testing. In addition, there has apparently been little consideration of faster, less expensive alternative methods. I would ask that you suspend any animal tests related to this program until all available data on alternate testing methods has been thoroughly reviewed. We should not conduct tests that are not warranted.

I also believe that it would be less costly and more practical to review the list of chemicals for testing, and eliminate all those that already are FDA approved. These already tested chemicals include some hazardous chemicals, safe food ingredients, and even fatty acids and glycerides.

Thank you for your consideration. As a Member of the Science Committee, I intend to monitor the progress of this program. I would appreciate a response at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

CURT WELDON
Member of Congress