

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 8, 2007

DR. ANDREW VON ESCHENBACH, M.D.
COMMISSIONER
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
5600 FISCHER LANE
ROCKVILLE MD 20857

Dear Dr. von Eschenbach:

We respectfully request your assistance in immediately halting plans to consolidate the FDA's Office of Regulatory Affairs [ORA] laboratories from 13 facilities to as few as four.

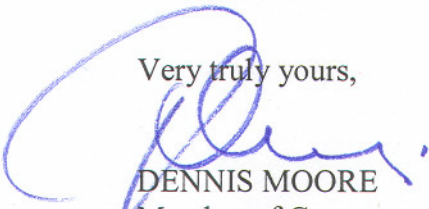
We understand the constraints of a tight budget and that such times call for difficult decisions. These labs, however, are of utmost importance in testing our nation's food supply, medical equipment, cosmetics and other health-related products for safety and effectiveness and ensuring that the products are labeled properly.

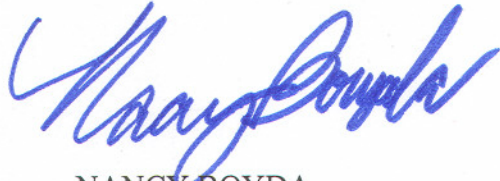
As you know, should a national emergency arise, these labs would be vital to providing a rapid response that is also appropriate in scale. Let us learn from Hurricane Katrina -- such preparedness is no longer optional. This network of ORA labs ensures that a wide range of scientific experts are available in locations throughout the country -- providing the critical tools necessary to fulfill its mission.

Consolidation of these labs would be a major shift in the structure and scope of the FDA. Congress should review this proposal before it is implemented, allowing the opportunity to address any critical funding gaps. In this effort, we request that you provide us with the details of the consolidation proposal. We aim to work with you to ensure that the FDA has the resources it needs to fulfill its mission and keep America safe.

Thank you for your attention to this request. We look forward to working with you to resolve this issue.

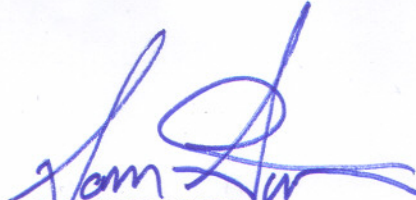
Very truly yours,


DENNIS MOORE
Member of Congress


NANCY BOYDA
Member of Congress



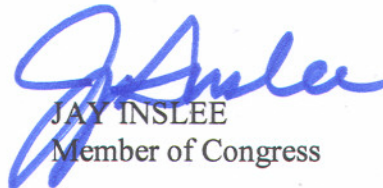
HOWARD BERMAN
Member of Congress



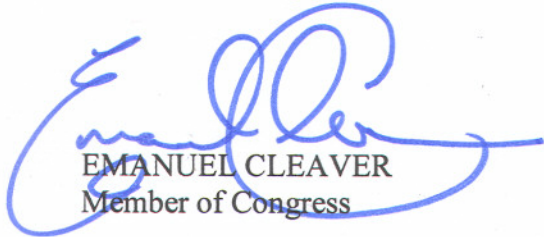
SAM GRAVES
Member of Congress



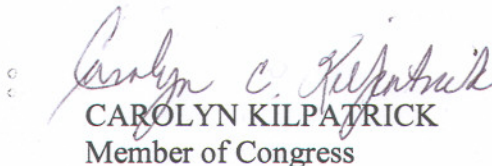
STEVE CHABOT
Member of Congress



JAY INSLEE
Member of Congress



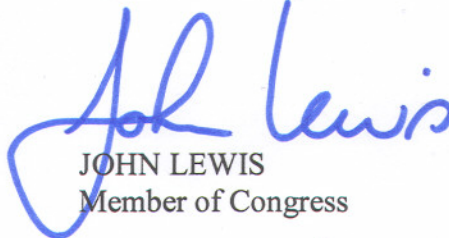
EMANUEL CLEAVER
Member of Congress



CAROLYN KILPATRICK
Member of Congress



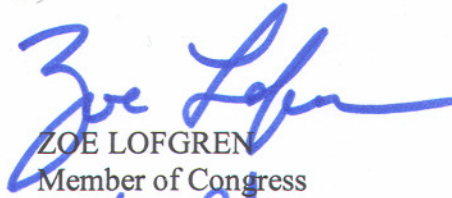
JOHN CONYERS
Member of Congress



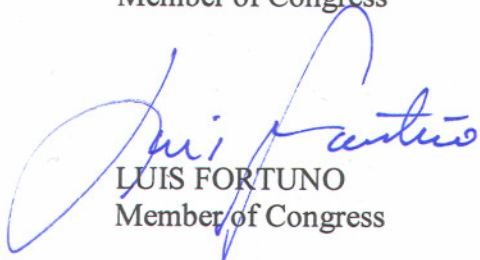
JOHN LEWIS
Member of Congress



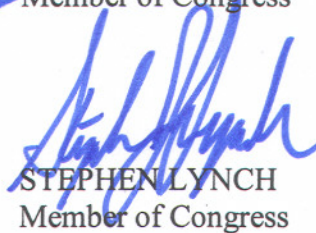
SAM FARR
Member of Congress



ZOE LOFGREN
Member of Congress



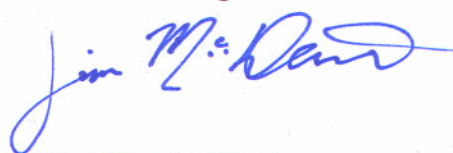
LUIS FORTUNO
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JIM MCDERMOTT
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Edward J. Markey

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Ike Skelton

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Mark Udall

MARK UDALL
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Jana DelGatto