



October 4, 2013

The Honorable Frank Lucas  
Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture  
2311 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515-3603

Dear Representative Lucas:

With the government shutdown, APHIS' Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) – the agency overseeing the release of vaccines for use in animal health, in particular poultry, cattle and livestock – has furloughed employees this week. This means CVB will not release serials (batches) of vaccines for distribution. We have received word that after 14 days, they will reevaluate.

Two weeks of stalled vaccine delivery will directly impact food safety, animal health and bio-security. The animal health industry cannot wait that long. Because producers hold limited supply of these vaccines, many of the large poultry, swine and cattle companies will be out of critical vaccine in a matter of days. Once they run out, they will be faced with tough decisions including:

- Not vaccinating their flocks or herds
- Shutting down production and furloughing their own employees

Animal health vaccine release is an essential activity. With the far-ranging impact on food safety, human health and animal health, we are seriously concerned about the disregard of this fundamental understanding. We ask that appropriate funding be allocated immediately, so there are no interruptions at CVB. We need these employees back on the job as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

John Starkey  
U.S. Poultry & Egg Association

Mike Brown  
National Chicken Council

Joel Brandenberger  
National Turkey Federation

Cc: The Honorable Fred Upton  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2183 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515-2206

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2204 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515-0530

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
United States Senate  
731 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510-1502

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
United States Senate  
455 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510-4204