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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

March 10, 2008

Stephen L. Johnson
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Johnson:

Due to the recent press attention pertaining to small traces of pharmaceuticals in drinking water supplies in several regions across the country, I would ask that you provide, in writing and without delay, assurances to the American public that their drinking water is in fact safe to drink and that there is no immediate health risk.

Beyond that assurance, I would ask that the Environmental Protection Agency establish a working group of appropriate state and federal experts or a committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) comprised of representatives from state and local water authorities, state departments of environmental quality, federal health agencies, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish workable and reasonable measures to reduce public health risks from pharmaceutical disposal into water supplies.

I am confident that EPA will take the necessary steps to continue to ensure the public trust. Please advise my staff if EPA needs additional legislative authority to carry out the goals listed above.

Sincerely,



James M. Inhofe
Ranking Member, Environment and
Public Works Committee