



Kim Reynolds
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Adam Gregg
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May 30, 2024

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

cc/ Dr. Geetha Srinivas
USDA Center for Veterinary Biologics
1920 Dayton Avenue
PO Box 844
Ames, IA 50010

Secretary Vilsack,

I am writing to urge the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to prioritize and expedite the approval process for animal vaccines designed to combat foreign animal diseases (FADs) and other diseases threatening the U.S. agriculture industry. Agriculture is the backbone of our society, shaping everything from the food on our plates to the clothes on our backs. It is crucial that we support our farmers and ranchers by ensuring they have the tools they need to care for their animals and produce the food we rely on. One key tool in this toolkit is safe and effective vaccines.

Animal diseases pose significant threats to the agricultural industry, jeopardizing animal health, food security, and economic stability. The recent outbreaks of diseases such as highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in dairy cattle and poultry, as well as the recent outbreak of Avian

Metapneumovirus (aMPV) in Iowa turkey farms, underscores the need for proactive measures to prevent and control future outbreaks. Vaccine development and approvals are critical to ensure the health and safety of our nation's livestock and poultry operations.

I urge the USDA and the USDA Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) located in Ames, Iowa, to expedite the review and approval process for animal vaccines, prioritizing those that have demonstrated safety, efficacy, and feasibility. Additionally, I encourage the USDA to allocate resources and support research efforts aimed at developing innovative vaccines and vaccination strategies.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you to find ways to improve access to vaccines for our agricultural community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kim Reynolds". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Kim Reynolds
Governor of Iowa