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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

October 30, 2014

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Kevin Shea, Administrator
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Administrator Shea:

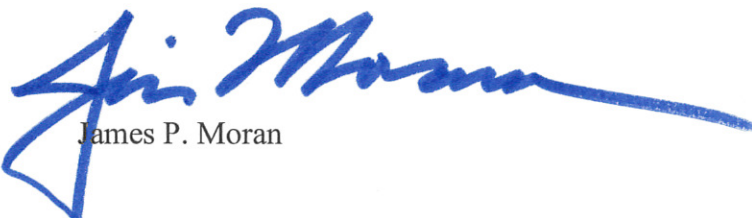
I have recently been made aware of the allegations of serious, ongoing violations of the Animal Welfare Act by Santa Cruz Biotechnology (SCBT), a major supplier of antibodies to the research industry. As you are aware, these violations include poor sanitation, inadequate veterinary care, and poor training of personnel. Most egregiously, an October 2012 inspection cited SCBT for deliberately and repeatedly hiding the existence of one of its facilities housing over 800 goats, thereby interfering with the Department's ability to enforce the law and denying these animals the basic protections of the AWA.

Since the allegations are among the most serious under the AWA, I am concerned that USDA has failed to act with the urgency this situation demands. While a complaint was filed against SCBT in July 2012 (for citations dating from July 2007 to May 2012), USDA cancelled its hearing before an Administrative Law Judge that was scheduled for July 2014. Now it is delayed until 2015. During this time, USDA inspectors have continued to cite SCBT for apparent violations of the Act, including the intentional concealment of an entire facility (which was cited two years ago this month), that are not contained in the original complaint.

As you are aware, the American public is increasingly aware of and concerned about the treatment of animals used in research. They place their trust in USDA to conduct effective oversight of research institutions and take swift action against violators when warranted. I am concerned the handling of this case is undermining that trust. I strongly encourage you to move forward with enforcement actions as expeditiously as possible and, if found to be in violation of the AWA, to seek substantial penalties against SCBT in order to discourage future violations of federal animal welfare regulations.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to your response to my concerns.

Sincerely,



James P. Moran