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Warren Casey, Ph.D.  
Director, NTP Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods  
(NICEATM)  
P.O. Box 12233  
Durham, N.C. 27709

Dear Dr. Casey,

Thank you for working to minimize unnecessary government mandates forcing businesses to test products on animals, and for headquartering this effort in North Carolina. Reports indicate that the government is apparently refusing to allow sunscreen makers to use modern and cost-effective alternatives to animal testing, and I find this shameful.

In 2014, my colleagues and I enacted the Sunscreen Innovation Act to streamline the FDA's burdensome process for reviewing and approving sunscreen ingredients already sold abroad.

Unfortunately, a recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report found that the FDA has yet to approve any such application, some which date back to 2002. One major roadblock identified by the GAO is FDA's insistence that companies perform animal testing that is "extensive, would cost millions of dollars, or take several years to conduct." The agency also apparently refuses to allow companies to provide data obtained from non-animal test methods.

Seemingly, the government is imposing needless animal testing burdens that cause companies significant expenses and place them at a competitive disadvantage. According to the GAO, companies argue that such animal testing is unnecessary, would upset shareholders, and potentially prevent them from marketing the products in countries that ban the sale of personal care items tested on animals.

Can you please inform me what NICEATM is doing to facilitate the regulatory acceptance of alternatives to animal testing for sunscreen ingredients, and what, if anything, can members of Congress do to assist these efforts?

Sincerely,



Robert Pittenger  
Member of Congress