

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 26, 2018

Dr. Scott Gottlieb, Commissioner
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Dear Commissioner Gottlieb,

Thank you for your decision earlier this year to cancel problematic and expensive nicotine addiction testing on primates at the FDA's National Center for Toxicological Research (NCTR) and to retire the monkeys to a refuge. We applaud your handling of this situation and were pleased to learn that the primates are being relocated to an accredited sanctuary in Florida.

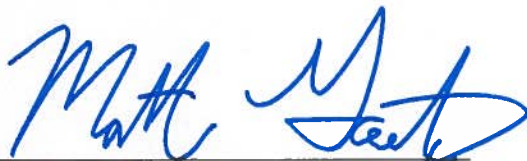
In your public statement about the development, you expressed concern about a "a generalized lack of adequate oversight" at the FDA's animal laboratories, and stated that FDA is "working to reaffirm and strengthen our commitment to replacing, reducing, and/or refining animal studies." Among other things, your statement announced the formation of a new Animal Welfare Council to centralize and strengthen oversight and accountability of FDA animal testing.

We share the FDA's commitment to reducing and replacing primate testing, and we understand that the FDA has active primate testing taking place at the NCTR and at its Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER).

We respectfully request that the Animal Welfare Council you formed conduct a review of all FDA primate testing and make recommendations for other areas where it can be reduced and replaced and where primates can be retired, as you have done with NCTR's nicotine experiments.

Thank you for your leadership and cooperation.

Sincerely,



Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress



Brendan Boyle
Member of Congress