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October 1, 2013

The Honorable Senator Pat Roberts
U.S. Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS)
109 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1605

Dear Senator Roberts,

With the government shutdown, APHIS' Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) - the agency overseeing the release of vaccines for use in animal health, in particular poultry and livestock - has furloughed employees. This means, CVB will not release serials (batches) of vaccines for distribution. We have received word after 14 days, they will reevaluate.

Two weeks of stalled vaccine delivery will directly impact food safety, animal health and bio-security. The animal health industry cannot wait that long. Because producers hold limited supply of these vaccines, many of the large poultry and swine companies will be out of critical vaccine in a matter of days. Once they run out, they will be faced with tough decisions such as:

- Not vaccinating their flocks or herds
- Shutting down production and furloughing their own employees

Animal health vaccine release is an essential activity. With the far ranging impact on food safety, human health and animal health, we do not understand why there is a lack of this fundamental understanding. We ask appropriate funding be allocated immediately so there are no interruptions at CVB. We need these employees back on the job as soon as possible.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig S. Wallace". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Craig S. Wallace
Chief Executive Officer and North America Zone Director