

**From:** Allen Wilson [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Keep life-threatening antibiotic-resistant pathogens out of our food supply!  
**Date Sent:** 05/16/2013 01:26:54 CDT  
**Date Received:** 05/16/2013 01:27:02 CDT

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May 16, 2013

Tom Vilsack

Dear Vilsack,

It has been two years since a citizens' petition was filed by the Center for Science in the Public Interest to protect me and my family from dangerous superbugs entering our meat and poultry supply. Please act now to declare these four strains of Salmonella as adulterants. This important preventative step can do a lot to protect consumers like me!

When an outbreak occurs, it's already too late.

Meats like chicken, ground beef, ground turkey, and pork regulated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) have already been implicated in outbreaks from the four Salmonella strains. This is food that I don't want to be afraid to eat.

The current USDA policy of only recalling products contaminated with antibiotic-resistant Salmonella after illnesses or hospitalizations have occurred is simply not the protection I expect from my government. Reacting after a problem has occurred continues to put consumers at too much risk.

The USDA can do so much more to protect consumers from antibiotic-resistant strains of Salmonella that contaminate the food supply. Please respond favorably to the CSPI petition.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to public health.

Sincerely,

Mr. Allen Wilson  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



CENTER FOR  
Science IN THE  
Public Interest

The nonprofit publisher of  
Nutrition Action Healthletter

July 28, 2014

The Honorable Thomas Vilsack  
United States Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

Enclosed are 3,700 petitions from members of the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) who are requesting that you act to address the public health crisis posed by antibiotic-resistant *Salmonella*. Three years ago, CSPI filed a citizen's petition urging the USDA to issue an interpretive rule declaring specific serotypes of antibiotic-resistant *Salmonella* to be adulterants, and we ask that you do so without delay.

Foodborne illnesses from antibiotic-resistant strains of *Salmonella* present a public health problem that urgently needs to be addressed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Ground meat or poultry that is found to be contaminated with antibiotic-resistant strains of *Salmonella* should be declared adulterated and recalled from the marketplace or withheld from commerce.

The USDA currently recalls products contaminated with antibiotic-resistant *Salmonella* only after illnesses or hospitalizations, and possibly deaths, have occurred. That reactionary approach continues to put consumers at undue risk from illnesses that are more complicated to treat and pose an increased risk of hospitalization. The preventative approach that is requested by the petition would ensure a more rapid and effective response to mitigate this public health crisis.

The USDA is in a vital position to protect consumers from antibiotic-resistant strains of *Salmonella* bacteria that enter the food supply by responding favorably to the CSPI petition.

Sincerely,

David W. Plunkett  
Senior Staff Attorney

Enclosures: 3,700 petitions

**Please sign  
the letter  
to Secretary  
Vilsack on  
the right and  
return it to  
CSPI in the  
enclosed  
postage-paid  
envelope.**

*We'll make  
sure it's  
delivered to  
the USDA!*

**Petition to USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack**

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

Since 2013, more than 500 people in 25 states have been sickened by chicken contaminated with antibiotic-resistant *Salmonella* Heidelberg. I've heard the horror stories from this outbreak—and from other outbreaks linked to meat and superbugs—for the past several years. What I haven't heard is anything meaningful from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) about what will be done to prevent *more of these illnesses*.

Three years ago, the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) petitioned your agency to act to protect my health and the health of my family by designating superbugs such as antibiotic-resistant *Salmonella* as “adulterants.” Declaring these superbugs as adulterants would mean that the USDA could recall contaminated products instead of allowing them to continue to be sold to unsuspecting consumers. And—with this recent outbreak—adulterant status might have reduced the number of people who got sick!

I know that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has an important role to play in reducing the amount of drugs used in food animal production, and CSPI is urging FDA Commissioner Margaret A. Hamburg, M.D., to do more in those areas. But you and your agency are responsible for ensuring the safety of the poultry and meat supply for consumers like me—and antibiotic-resistant superbugs are simply not safe.

I urge you to grant CSPI's petition to declare antibiotic-resistant superbugs as adulterants and show me that the USDA can lead the way to protect consumers from these threats to our food supply.

Sincerely,

  
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Signature

Mr. Tom Clapham  
