

WRITING A LETTER TO YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The Honorable Jane Doe

U.S. House of Representatives (or U.S. Senate)

Full Street Address

City, State and ZIP code

**Name & address of your
representative or senator**

Dear Representative (or Senator) Doe,

My name is John Smith, and I am writing because I am
concerned about...

**Identify yourself, the
issue and why this is
important to you.
Keep it short.**

I am asking you to take action to protect US pets, voting
against the PURR Act. Please contact a member of the House
Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee: Health
and **urge them to vote against the PURR Act. This bill puts
all US pets in danger, vote NO.**

**Make the ask - what
do you want your
member to do?**

*Include any or all information from the example letter on the
following pages.*

Sincerely,

Your Name

Your Return Address

**Include your full name and address so
your congress member can confirm
you are a constituent.**

***Mail your letter to your member's district office.
You can find locations at www.house.gov and www.senate.gov***

Say 'NO' to the PURR Act

EXAMPLE LETTER

courtesy of Susan Thixton

H. R. 7380, the "Pet Food Uniform Regulatory Reform Act of 2024" or the "PURR Act of 2024" proposes updates to the authority of the Food and Drug Administration, replacing a current system of state and federal authority over pet food.

Overview: The PURR Act puts the health of US pets in danger, the safety of pet food at risk. The cost to US taxpayers for FDA sole jurisdiction over pet food would be dramatic. As well, there are concerning questions if FDA would be capable of handling the responsibility and if FDA is the correct federal agency to be given the responsibility.

Minimal Consumer Trust

The FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine continues to fail pet food consumers on numerous issues resulting in lack of trust the agency would assure the safety of pet food products. As a recent example, in January, February and March 2024, thousands of pet food consumers reported to FDA serious illnesses and pet deaths linked to multiple brands of pet food. Per FOIA obtained records, in January 2024 alone the FDA CVM received more than 1300 reports of sick pets, 103 pet death reports linked to pet food. While the FDA frequently alerts the public to potential health risks based on adverse event reports received, the FDA CVM did not notify the public to these concerning pet food illness and death reports (which continued in February and March 2024 at significantly high numbers) until seven months after the outbreak. Had the agency warned the public in a timely manner, thousands of pet illnesses could have been prevented.

Cost - Potentially Hundreds of Millions Annually

Currently, pet food is regulated on a state and federal level. Many state feed officials perform label reviews, perform random testing on pet food/animal feed products, and investigate consumer complaints. Currently, most State Department of Agriculture agencies receive funding through required registration fees of pet food products that sell within state boundaries. These registration fees support pet food label reviews, random and investigational testing, and in many instances the state laboratory itself.

If the PURR Act is passed, most State Department of Agriculture agencies would shrink in size due to revenue loss, limiting their ability to properly regulate and perform laboratory analysis of their remaining responsibility - livestock feed.

At a minimum, should the PURR Act pass, the FDA would need to hire 50-75 new employees to perform the work currently performed by each State Department of Agriculture. Annual laboratory analysis costs would dramatically increase, costs of random and investigative testing of pet food products would dramatically increase.

If the FDA is not properly funded to assume the task of sole regulatory authority over pet food, the safety of pet food cannot be assured for US pet food consumers. Further, the FDA struggles to properly regulate human food, the added burden of regulating the entire pet food industry could be overwhelming for the agency leading to only partial regulation in multiple divisions.

Focus of the PURR Act Neglects Consumers

H.R. 7380's main focus is industry, the bill completely ignores the needs of consumers - the largest stakeholder group of pet food. As currently written, the bill allows mislabeling issues; allowing consumers to purchase products with unverified (and potentially misleading) claims.

The PURR Act focuses on fast-tracking new ingredient approvals through FDA. While industry might benefit from swift ingredient approvals, consumers question the safety of fast-tracked approvals. It needs to be noted that the FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine has proceeded with this aspect of sole ingredient approvals BEFORE the bill has passed Congress's approval.

The PURR Act also focuses on larger pet food manufacturers, potentially inhibiting growth of small to very small manufacturers.

Is FDA the Wrong Jurisdiction for Pet Food/Animal Feed?

The current system of pet food regulation definitely needs improvement, to be updated to properly regulate the pet food industry.

I remind Congress consumers were promised updates in 2007 with Section 1002 of the Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act - Ensuring the Safety Of Pet Food. The original language of the Act promised pet owners updated labeling requirements, updated ingredient definitions and standards within 2 years (September 2009). The FDA never completed these requirements of the Act.

With FDA's history of ignoring pet food safety requirements established by Congress and with the current struggles the agency faces properly ensuring US foods are safe, perhaps the proper regulation of pet food belongs in USDA jurisdiction. The current jurisdiction of USDA better aligns to regulate pet food than FDA. USDA currently regulates foods that contain more than 3% meat, and many/most pet food raw ingredients such as meats, grains, fruits and vegetables. Due to this current USDA jurisdiction, the agency burden would be less than with FDA.

I am asking you to take action to protect US pets, voting against the PURR Act. Please contact a member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee: Health and urge them to vote against the PURR Act. This bill puts all US pets in danger, vote NO.

And all the bill co-sponsors and members of the Committee.

*Bill Sponsor: Representative Jake LaTurner R. Kansas
2441 Rayburn House Office Building
(202) 225-6601*

Co-Sponsors:

*Representative Henry Cuellar D. Texas
2372 Rayburn House Office Building
(202) 225-1640*

*Representative Steve Womack R. Arkansas
2412 Rayburn House Office Building
(202) 225-4301*

*Representative Sharice Davids D. Kansas
2435 Rayburn House Office Building
(202) 225-2865*

*Representative Josh Harder D. California
209 Cannon House Office Building
(202) 225-4540*

*Representative David G. Valadao R. California
2465 Rayburn House Office Building
(202) 225-4695*

*Representative Brandon Williams R. New York
1022 Longworth House Office Building
(202) 225-3701*

*Representative Derrick Van Orden R. Wisconsin
1513 Longworth House Office Building
(202) 225-5506*

*Representative Adrian Smith R. Nebraska
502 Cannon House Office Building
(202) 225-6435*

*Representative Mark E. Amodei R. Nevada
104 Cannon House Office Building
(202) 225-6155*

*Representative Susan Wild D. Pennsylvania
1027 Longworth House Office Building
(202) 225-6411*

*Representative A. Drew Ferguson IV R. Georgia
2239 Rayburn House Office Building
(202) 225-5901*

*Representative Donald G. Davis D. North Carolina
1123 Longworth House Office Building
(202) 225-3101*

*Representative Blaine Luetkemeyer R. Missouri
2230 Rayburn House Office Building
(202) 225-2956*

*Representative Brad R. Wenstrup
2335 Rayburn House Office Building
(202) 225-3164*

*House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee: Health
Members:*

*Brett Guthrie R. Kentucky Chairman
2434 Rayburn H.O.B. Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-3501*

<https://www.facebook.com/CongressmanGuthrie/>

<https://twitter.com/repguthrie>

<https://www.instagram.com/repguthrie/>

*Larry Bucshon, M.D. R. Indiana Vice Chair
2313 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-4636*

<https://www.facebook.com/RepLarryBucshon>

<https://twitter.com/RepLarryBucshon>

*Anna Eshoo D. California Ranking Member Health
272 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-8104*

<http://www.facebook.com/RepAnnaEshoo>

<http://instagram.com/RepAnnaEshoo>

*Michael Burgess R. Texas
2161 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-7772*

<https://www.facebook.com/michaelcburgess/>

<https://www.instagram.com/repmichaelburgess/>

Bob Latta R. Ohio
2467 Rayburn HOB Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-6405

<https://www.facebook.com/boblatta/>
<https://www.instagram.com/boblatta/>
<https://twitter.com/boblatta>

Morgan Griffith R. Virginia
2202 Rayburn HOB Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-3861

<https://www.facebook.com/RepMorganGriffith>
<https://twitter.com/RepMGriffith>
<https://www.instagram.com/hmorgangriffith/>

Gus Bilirakis R. Florida
2306 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-5755

<https://www.facebook.com/GusBilirakis>
<https://twitter.com/repgusbilirakis>
<https://www.instagram.com/gusbilirakis/>

Richard Hudson R. North Carolina
2112 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-3715

<https://twitter.com/RepRichHudson>
<https://www.instagram.com/reprichhudson/>

Buddy Carter R. Georgia
2432 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-5831

<https://www.facebook.com/CongressmanBuddyCarter/>
<https://twitter.com/repBuddyCarter>
<https://www.instagram.com/repbuddycarter/>

Neal Dunn, M.D. R. Florida
466 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-5235

<https://www.facebook.com/DrNealDunnFL2/>
<https://twitter.com/DrNealDunnFL2>

Greg Pence R. Indiana
211 Cannon HOB Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-3021

<https://www.facebook.com/RepGregPence/>
<https://twitter.com/RepGregPence/>
<https://www.instagram.com/repgregpence/?hl=en>

Dan Crenshaw R. Texas
248 Cannon HOB Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-6565
<https://www.facebook.com/RepDanCrenshaw/>
<https://twitter.com/RepDanCrenshaw>

John Joyce R. Pennsylvania
152 Cannon HOB Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-2431
<https://www.facebook.com/RepJohnJoyce>
<https://twitter.com/RepJohnJoyce>

Troy Balderson R. Ohio
2429 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-5355
<https://www.facebook.com/RepTroyBalderson>
<https://twitter.com/RepBalderson>

Diana Harshbarger R. Tennessee
167 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515
<https://www.facebook.com/RepDianaHarshbarger>
<https://twitter.com/RepHarshbarger>
<https://www.instagram.com/repharshbarger/>

Mariannette Miller-Meeks R. Iowa
1034 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-6576
<https://www.facebook.com/RepMMM>
<https://twitter.com/RepMMM>
<https://www.instagram.com/repmmm/?hl=en>

Jay Obernolte R. California
1029 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-5861
<https://www.facebook.com/JayObernolte>
<https://twitter.com/JayObernolte>
<https://www.instagram.com/jayobernolte/>

Cathy McMorris Rodgers R. Washington
2188 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-2006
<https://www.facebook.com/mcmorrisrodgers/>
<https://twitter.com/cathymcmorris>
<https://www.instagram.com/cathymcmorris/>

John Sarbanes D. Maryland
2370 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-4016
<http://www.facebook.com/RepSarbanes>
<http://twitter.com/RepSarbanes>

Tony Cardenas D. California
2181 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515