



12 November 2001

Dr. Bill Stokes, Director  
NTP Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative  
Toxicological Methods (MD EC-17)  
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences  
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Dear Mr. Stokes:

As someone who conscientiously purchases only products that are not tested on animals and not made with any animal ingredients, I know that it is possible to produce medicines, cosmetics, and a wide range of quality household products without animal testing or ingredients. My assertion is supported by the fact that over 500 major manufacturers of cosmetics and household goods have stopped testing on animals, relying instead on computer modeling techniques and the data derived from the years of animal testing that have already been done. With the vast stores of data from that testing and the tools for accurate and reliable simulations, there is absolutely no need to subject animals to testing, most of which is painful and results in lethal injury, all of which is cruel and inhumane.

I understand that you are considering an integrated approach—the use of non-animal tests and then animal testing to confirm the results of the non-animal testing in skin corrosion studies. I also understand that you will be making a decision on this path very soon. While I applaud the reduction in the number of animals used in testing that such an approach would cause, I implore you to eliminate animal testing entirely, putting an end to experiments that are tantamount to torture, the kind that if they were applied to humans would result in jail sentences for the perpetrators. Animals are not our pawns, they are not meat, they were not placed on the planet for our amusement, convenience, or financial gain. Please show your respect for the animals, and if not for them, for the 75% of Americans who prefer to use products that are not tested on animals. Animal testing is unethical, unnecessary, and unwanted, and it is within the power of the scientific community to put an end to it. I respectfully ask that you use your influence to do so.

Very truly yours,

Laurie Ann Ulrich  
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