

December 7, 2022

Robert M. Califf, MD  
Commissioner of Food and Drug Administration  
10903 New Hampshire Ave  
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Dear Dr. Califf:

We write to you today regarding the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) role in achieving President Biden's goal of halving economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 2030 in order to reach net zero by 2050. Meeting these targets will require innovation and coordination with industry from every federal agency, and the FDA is uniquely positioned to provide climate solutions to the agriculture industry in reducing enteric methane emissions.

Both the dairy and cattle industries have committed to reducing the climate impact of their farming operations over the next 20-30 years. To meet their commitments, farmers are subscribing to conventional climate and land management programs offered by the United States Department of Agriculture. However, these programs do not address the nearly one third of operations' emissions resulting from enteric methane. Enteric methane emissions are currently being addressed by our agricultural competitors in the European Union and Brazil through feed additives, but farmers in the U.S. do not have this option.

The FDA has not yet approved any feed additives to meet this need, in part due to agency's initial discretionary decision to regulate some potential feed ingredients within the animal drug process instead of the food additives process. Though both the animal drug and the Food Additive Petition (FAP) processes must demonstrate product efficacy and safety in human and animal reviews, the FAP route can be completed in 2-3 years, where the drug route can be completed in 8-10 years. Furthermore, if products are regulated as foods, they should be authorized and explicitly approved by FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM).

Feed additives aimed at reducing enteric methane emissions would give farmers another tool to reduce a large share of their GHG footprint and create a level playing field with their European and Brazilian competitors as they work towards their sustainability goals. We encourage the FDA to review the role that animal feed additives approved by CVM are poised to play in helping achieve these goals, and we appreciate your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



---

Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



---

Jerry Moran  
United States Senator



---

Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



---

Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



---

Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



---

Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



---

Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



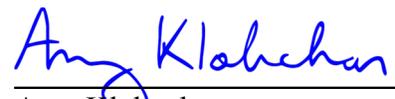
---

Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator



---

John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator



---

Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



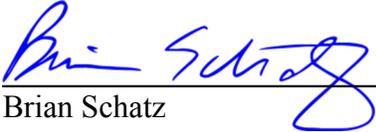
---

Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



---

Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



---

Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



---

Tina Smith  
United States Senator



---

Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator

Cc:

Mr. Ali Zaidi  
Assistant to the President and National Climate Advisor

Honorable Xavier Becerra  
Secretary of Health and Human Services

Honorable Tom Vilsack  
Secretary of Agriculture