

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 11, 2020

The Honorable Stephen M. Hahn, M.D.
Commissioner
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002

Dear Commissioner Hahn:

We have followed the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Center for Veterinary Medicine investigation into the causes of canine dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM). The investigation has been of significant interest to the pet food industry, its supply chain - which includes farmers in our states, and pet owners.

Today, we write to you regarding the FDA symposium scheduled for September 29, organized by Kansas State University, on the topic of possible linkages between grain-free diets and canine DCM. Bringing together researchers and other stakeholders to share and discuss the most recent and relevant science on the issue is an important step in understanding the medical factors related to canine DCM.

As you know, there have been concerns about previous statements issued by the FDA regarding purported causes of canine DCM. We are asking for your assurance the FDA will ensure the symposium is organized in an objective manner, and that the best available science is made available and examined, so as to prevent any bias about causation of this disease.

We would also appreciate knowing how the FDA will make available its plans for how the symposium will be organized, including guidance about the agenda, details on the abstracts and individuals who will be presenting, the process by which the FDA (and any external stakeholders) determines who and what should be presented, how discussion/questions and answers will be managed, and other pertinent information about the event. Academics, pet food nutritionists, veterinary researchers, pulse crop growers and processors, among others, have submitted abstracts and are eager to present at the symposium. Similarly, we know many interested stakeholders would benefit from access to the underlying medical records and accompanying information that have been collected by and served as the foundation for the FDA's statements about its investigation. Please let me know how you are planning to share this information.

Please let us know how the FDA intends to release the information presented at the symposium. And, if the scientific evidence presented diverges from the FDA's initial conclusions, we are asking for your assurance the FDA will update its previous public statements accordingly, especially with regards to any ingredients or brand names that have been implicated.

Thank you for your attention and we look forward to hearing back from you prior to the symposium regarding our concerns expressed in this letter. And, we hope the event will bring greater scientific clarity to the causes of canine DCM and facilitate productive dialogue between scientists, pulse growers, pet owners, and members of the pet food industry.

Thank you for your hard work organizing this symposium. We wish you success.

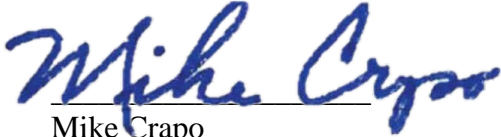
Sincerely,



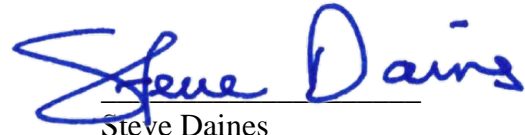
Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



James E. Risch
United States Senator



Mike Crapo
United States Senator



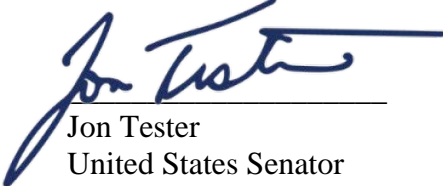
Steve Daines
United States Senator



John Hoeven
United States Senator



Roy Blunt
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator