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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROSA L. DELAURO

3RD DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

February 5, 2016

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The Honorable Stephen Ostroff, M.D.
Acting Commissioner
The Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
White Oak, RM 322346
Silver Springs, MD 20993

Dear Acting Commissioner Ostroff,

I write to express deep concerns regarding the current multistate outbreak of *Salmonella* infections linked to imported cucumbers. Despite two separate voluntary recalls issued last year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is still reporting an additional number of consumers sickened by these contaminated cucumbers. This is a public health crisis, and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) needs to do everything within its power to expeditiously identify the ongoing source of the *Salmonella* outbreak, including: halting all importation, processing, and distribution activities by the firms implicated in the outbreak; working with food retailers to ensure proper clean up and decontamination; and recalling any associated contaminated foods.

Since this outbreak was first reported on September 4, 2015, there have been a total of 888 illness, 191 hospitalizations, and 6 deaths across 39 states from *Salmonella*-tainted cucumbers. I find it troubling that 106 of these illnesses were reported after the recalled cucumbers should have no longer been available on store shelves--strongly pointing to a continued contamination somewhere along the supply chain. Given the ongoing prevalence of this outbreak, it is clear the manner in which we have addressed this problem today is inadequate.

American families should not be dying from the food they eat, and it is my hope that you will take a strong stand to bring this deadly outbreak to an end. Therefore, I call on the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to utilize the fullest extent of its authority to crack down on potential cross-contamination activities and halt the supply chain by which these contaminated cucumbers continue to reach store shelves.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter and I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rosa L. DeLauro".

Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress