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September 23, 2009

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senate  
133 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Thune  
United States Senate  
493 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Supporters of the Veterinary Services Investment Act

Dear Senators Stabenow and Thune

The undersigned organizations representing a broad range of interests relating to veterinary medicine, food safety and food animal agriculture enthusiastically offer our support for the bipartisan Veterinary Services Investment Act. We commend you for your leadership in sponsoring this important legislation which will bolster the availability of veterinary services across the country.

Your legislation recognizes that the demand for large-animal veterinarians is soaring but a shortage persists that could put the nation's agriculture economy at risk. It also recognizes that veterinarians are needed to identify naturally occurring diseases as well as diseases that might be the result of bio- or agro-terrorism. The legislation would help to support veterinarians who are the only doctors trained to protect both animal and human health while playing a key role in public health and in the production of a safe and healthy food supply.

Your legislation will help our nation to address the challenges it faces to relieve veterinary shortages and to enhance the professional lives of veterinarians and veterinary technicians through relevant programs that will improve the well-being of livestock as well as the economic success of their owners, increase awareness and promote leadership for issues critical to food safety as well as to food production industries, and improve opportunities for careers in veterinary medicine. Finally, the Veterinary Services Investment Act will help ensure a stable and safe food supply for citizens in the United States.

Sincerely,  
Alabama Veterinary Medical Association  
Alaska Veterinary Medical Association  
American Animal Hospital Association  
American Association for Laboratory Animal Science

American Association of Avian Pathologists  
American Association of Bovine Practitioners  
American Association of Corporate and Public Practice Veterinarians  
American Association of Feline Practitioners  
American Association of Food Hygiene Veterinarians  
American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners  
American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians  
American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians  
American Association Senior Veterinarians  
American College of Poultry Veterinarians  
American College of Veterinary Pathologists  
American Horse Council  
American Farm Bureau Federation®  
American Feed Industry Association  
American Meat Institute  
American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists  
American Society of Laboratory Animal Practitioners  
American Veterinary Medical Association  
Animal Agriculture Alliance  
Animal Health Institute  
Arizona Veterinary Medical Association  
Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association  
Association for Women Veterinarians Foundation  
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges  
Bayer Animal Health  
Boehringer-Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals  
California Veterinary Medical Association  
Colegio de Medicos Veterinarios de Puerto Rico (Puerto Rico VMA)  
Colorado Veterinary Medical Association  
Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association  
Delaware Veterinary Medical Association  
District of Columbia Veterinary Medical Association  
Florida Veterinary Medical Association  
Georgia Veterinary Medical Association  
Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association  
Idaho Veterinary Medical Association  
Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association  
Iowa Veterinary Medical Association  
Indiana Veterinary Medical Association  
Kansas Veterinary Medical Association  
Kansas City Animal Health Corridor  
Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association  
Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association  
Maine Veterinary Medical Association  
Maryland Veterinary Medical Association  
Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association  
Michigan Veterinary Medical Association  
Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association

Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association  
Missouri Veterinary Medical Association  
Montana Veterinary Medical Association  
National Association of Federal Veterinarians  
National Cattlemen's Beef Association  
National Chicken Council  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Turkey Federation  
Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association  
Nevada Veterinary Medical Association  
New Hampshire Veterinary Medical Association  
New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association  
New Mexico Veterinary Medical Association  
New York State Veterinary Medical Society  
North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association  
North Dakota Veterinary Medical Association  
Ohio Veterinary Medical Association  
Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association  
Oregon Veterinary Medical Association  
Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association  
Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association  
Schering-Plough  
Society for Theriogenology  
South Carolina Veterinary Medical Association  
South Dakota Veterinary Medical Association  
Synbiotics Corporation  
Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association  
Texas Veterinary Medical Association  
United States Animal Health Association  
Utah Veterinary Medical Association  
Vermont Veterinary Medical Association  
Virginia Veterinary Medical Association  
Washington State Veterinary Medical Association  
West Virginia Veterinary Medical Association  
Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association  
Wyoming Veterinary Medical Association