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Congress of the United States
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August 20, 2015

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Dr. Stephen Ostroff, M.D.
Acting Commissioner
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Dear Acting Commissioner Ostroff:

I write to emphasize the urgent need for strong regulation of electronic cigarettes. A constituent of mine in Wyandotte, Michigan was severely injured by an exploding electronic cigarette, and there have been numerous other incidents across the country. One of his arms and his abdomen were both severely burned in the incident. Consumers deserve peace of mind in knowing the products they buy at the store are safe for use. Such assurances currently do not exist for electronic cigarettes due to the absence of federal regulation of these products.

I understand the FDA has issued a proposed rule that would extend the agency's authority to electronic cigarettes, and these troubling incidents underscore the need to finalize this regulation as soon as possible. The proposed rule would "deem" electronic cigarettes to be subject to FDA authority. This means manufacturers of electronic cigarettes would be required to register with the agency, in addition to reporting product and ingredient listings. Electronic cigarettes would also be subject to requirements to include health warnings and minimum age restrictions. Importantly, these tools would help to better protect public health and ensure that electronic cigarettes would be regulated in the same manner as which FDA currently regulates cigarettes.

Furthermore, the proposed rule also contemplates requiring pre-market approval of any electronic cigarette that was on the market prior to February 15, 2007. This provision is essential to ensuring these devices are safe for use and do not have a negative impact on human health. I strongly encourage you to maintain this provision in the final rule.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. Our nation needs strong regulations for electronic cigarettes so we can ensure they are safe for use. It is my hope that this important regulation is finalized as soon as possible because every day we wait is another day that the American people are put at risk of using faulty products. I look forward to working with you on this critical public health issue.

Sincerely,



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress