

**BART STUPAK**  
1ST DISTRICT, MICHIGAN



COMMITTEE:  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS  
CHAIRMAN

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND THE INTERNET  
ENVIRONMENT AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

CAUCUS LEADERSHIPS:  
LAW ENFORCEMENT CAUCUS, CO-CHAIR  
NORTHERN BORDER CAUCUS, CO-CHAIR

RURAL CAUCUS

ASSISTANT WHIP

2352 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2201

PHONE: (202) 225-4735  
FAX: (202) 225-4744

<http://www.house.gov/stupak>  
(Email through Website)

*Congress of the United States*  
*House of Representatives*  
*Washington, DC 20515-2201*

SCOTT SCHLOEGEL—CHIEF OF STAFF  
TOM BALDINI—DISTRICT DIRECTOR

December 3, 2008

President-elect Barack Obama  
Presidential Transition Team  
Washington, D.C., 20270

Dear President-elect Obama:

Congratulations on recently being elected the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America. As President you have the privilege of appointing a new Commissioner to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). I would encourage you not to appoint any current senior FDA employee as Commissioner or Interim Commissioner of the FDA.

As a member of the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee and member of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee for 12 years, I have been involved with numerous investigations of the FDA. For the past two years I have served as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations which has primary oversight of the FDA.

Since February 2007, I have held 16 hearings into the inadequacies of the FDA to protect Americans from unsafe food, drugs and medical devices. The subcommittee's investigations revealed how the current FDA senior management blocked clinical trials, drove dedicated medical professionals out of the agency, and lined their pockets with outrageous bonuses. The agency has abandoned its core mission of protecting Americans from contaminated food, unsafe drugs, and medical devices.

You offer a break from the past and renewed hope for all Americans. I encourage you to seek meaningful reform at the FDA, which begins with a complete change in the FDA's leadership. Current senior FDA employees are too close with the industries they regulate, creating a question of who they are working for. A new Commissioner or Interim Commissioner must bring the Agency back to the forefront of science, integrity, and transparency. The American people deserve an FDA that will vigorously protect the American people from unsafe food and drugs.

PLEASE REPLY TO:

616 SHELDON  
HOUGHTON, MI 49931  
(906) 482-1371

2 SOUTH 6TH STREET  
SUITE 3  
CRYSTAL FALLS, MI 49920  
(906) 875-3751

1229 WEST WASHINGTON  
MARQUETTE, MI 49855  
(906) 228-3700

902 LUDINGTON STREET  
ESCANABA, MI 49829  
(906) 786-4504

200 DIVISION STREET  
PETOSKEY, MI 49770  
(231) 348-0657

111 EAST CHISHOLM  
ALPENA, MI 49707  
(989) 356-0690

575 COURT STREET  
WEST BRANCH, MI 48661  
(989) 345-2258

DISTRICT TOLL FREE: 800-950-REP1 (7371)

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

I look forward to working with you and the new FDA Commissioner to address the weaknesses which exist in the safety of our nation's food and drug supply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bart Stupak". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

BART STUPAK  
Member of Congress

BTS/eo

Cc: Phil Schiliro, Director of Congressional Relations  
John Podesta, Transition Team