

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927  
Minority (202) 225-3641

June 8, 2011

The Honorable Margaret A. Hamburg, M.D.  
Commissioner  
The Food and Drug Administration  
10903 New Hampshire Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20903

Thomas Frieden, M.D., MPH  
Director  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road  
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Hamburg and Dr. Frieden:

Pursuant to Rules X and XI of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Committee on Energy and Commerce is examining the recent outbreak of a lethal form of Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* O104:H4 (STEC O104:H4) in Europe. As of June 6, 2011, case counts confirmed by Germany's Robert Koch Institute include 642 patients with hemolytic uremic syndrome – a type of kidney failure that is associated with *E. coli* or STEC infections – and 15 deaths. We are especially concerned by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report that, in the United States, there are one confirmed and three suspected cases of STEC O104:H4 infections identified in persons who recently traveled to Hamburg, Germany, the likely site of exposure.<sup>1</sup>

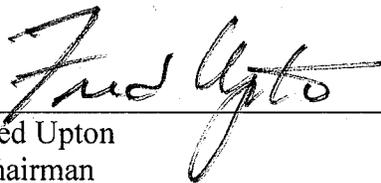
We request that you contact Sam Spector with the Republican Committee staff at (202) 225-2927 and Stacia Cardille of the Democratic staff at (202) 225-3641 to schedule a staff briefing on the Food and Drug Administration's efforts to protect the American food supply. We

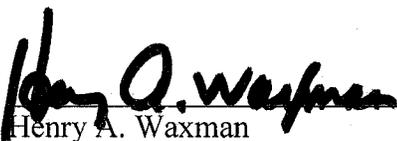
---

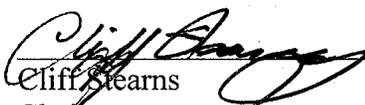
<sup>1</sup>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Investigation Update: Outbreak of Shiga toxin-producing E. coli 0104 (STEC 0104:H4) Infections Associated with Travel to Germany* (online at [www.cdc.gov/ecoli/2011/ecoliO104/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/2011/ecoliO104/index.html)) (accessed on June 8, 2011).

also ask the CDC to participate in the briefing as CDC is monitoring the current outbreak of *E. coli* O104 and tracking illnesses in the United States that may be related to the outbreak.

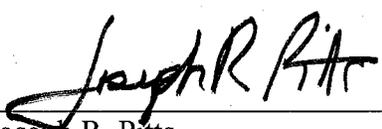
Sincerely,

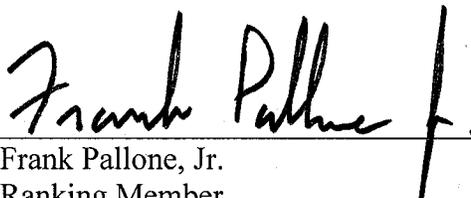
  
Fred Upton  
Chairman

  
Henry A. Waxman  
Ranking Member

  
Cliff Stearns  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oversight  
and Investigations

  
Diana DeGette  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Oversight  
and Investigations

  
Joseph R. Pitts  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Health

  
Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Health