

iDOGGIEBAGTM Foundation

August 5, 2009

Honorable Senator Barbara Boxer
312 North Spring Street Suite 1748
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Honorable Senator Diane Feinstein
11111 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 915
Los Angeles, CA 90025

Dear Senator Boxer and Senator Feinstein,

I am writing to you both at the suggestion of Congressman Henry Waxman. I have been working with Congressman Waxman's office since February of this year regarding a groundbreaking idea I proposed for inclusion in the just passed Food Safety Enhancement Act of 2009. Unfortunately, for some reason the bill made it out of the Energy and Commerce Committee and for a Vote without these new provisions.

I am an award-winning Media Entrepreneur and Tech Visionary, with 30 years of global business experience and the worldwide connections that come with said experience. I also happen to be a recent cancer survivor. Not surprisingly, my journey through cancer and recovery is changing my life and I am now on a mission. You see, my cancer had a direct link to the precarious safety of the global food chain. Let me briefly explain why I am asking for your help in including the **Nipper Alert aka The Global Contaminated Food and Feed Alert System (CFFAN)** in the Senate's future version of this bill.

In December 2006 I fed Procter and Gamble Iams cat food (from China) to Nipper, my healthy cat, only to find out MONTHS later that it contained poisonous levels of Melamine. This knowledge came far too late. Nipper went into kidney failure Christmas Eve 2006. In March 2007 the pet food companies finally admitted to the problem and the pet food recall happened. In May 2007 Nipper had a seizure and inadvertently bit me in the right wrist. I landed in the ER for two days with cat scratch fever that was headed for my heart. Nipper passed on and I was on antibiotics for two months.

Right then and there I decided to do something to prevent this from ever happening to anyone else. I immediately began work on creating a not for profit charity to promote global food safety for people and pets, the iDoggiebag Foundation. Two months later, on July 4, 2007, I informally launched iDoggiebag with my family, a strictly grass roots campaign. *(Currently I am in the process of completing my 501c paperwork to make the iDoggiebag Foundation official. You can go to www.iDoggiebag.com and see how, among our other fundraising efforts, Donors receive an iDoggiebag of their choice in exchange for their gift. I have included one for both of you.)*

Five weeks later I found myself at Cedars Sinai Hospital, diagnosed with breast cancer, on my right side. When my biopsies and surgeries were completed, what do you think my

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Medical team found next to the cancerous tumor in my lymph node? Yes, that nasty infection from Nipper's poisonous bite. It has been determined that this same poisonous cat bite exacerbated my small, slow-growing early stage one cancer, to a fast-growing stage two lymph node-involved cancer, which is a whole different ball game in terms of treatment and prognosis. You can read this in complete detail at my blog, www.icancersurvivor.com

It is now almost **two years** since I poisoned my cat and in turn was poisoned myself and we REALLY need to do something about food safety.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, **76 million** are sickened, **325,000** are hospitalized and **5,000** die each year from food borne illnesses.

According to one USDA Economic Service report, "Food borne illnesses account for about **1** of every **100** U.S. hospitalizations and **1** of every **500** U.S. deaths.

The Food and Drug Administration estimates **2 to 3** percent of food borne illness victims develop *secondary long-term medical complications* resulting in *over 1.5 million lingering health problems each year*.

In May 2001, the USDA's Economic Research Service estimated that *Campylobacter*, *Salmonella*, *E. Coli*, *Listeria Monocytogenes* and *Toxoplasma gondii* cause **\$6.9 BILLION** in medical costs, lost productivity and premature deaths each year in the United States.

In light of those statistics, the **Global Contaminated Food and Feed Alert System (Nipper Alert)** has the potential to save billions of dollars in medical costs and lost productivity, not to mention, premature deaths in the United States.

I trust you will see from the attached "overview of the Nipper Alert" that we also believe we have the tools to help the other side of the Alert system, i.e., it is imperative that there is a definitive **All Clear** sent out so as not to have the disastrous economic impacts that many of these "scares" have caused. As an example, I know people who *still* won't eat peanuts.

In other words, the **Global Contaminated Food and Feed Alert System (Nipper Alert)** **needs to be an integral part of the Food Safety Bill**.

So, what do I do next? Whom do I talk to in your office? I am ready, willing and able to come to Washington or anywhere, any time, to make this happen.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this matter.

Linda Carol Rheinstein
Founder