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**Congress of the United States**

**House of Representatives**

**Washington, DC 20515**

January 27, 2021

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The Honorable Janet Woodcock  
Acting Commissioner  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
10903 New Hampshire Ave  
Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002

Dear Dr. Woodcock:

I write today to inform you that your agency is the most recent recipient of my Golden Fleece Award. I am awarding the Golden Fleece to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for its recent published notice in the Federal Register that the FDA, under the Over-the-Counter Monograph Drug User Fee Program, was charging distilleries that produced hand sanitizer during the COVID-19 pandemic \$14,060.

At the start of this pandemic, items like personal protective equipment and hand sanitizer were in short supply. Our nation's distilleries, many of them small businesses, stepped up to fill the void and make hand sanitizer for local first responders and citizens. However, in the week between Christmas and the New Year, and after a painful financial year for many of these distilleries, they received a surprise notification that they now owed the FDA more than \$14,000 for their willingness to step in and help their fellow Americans.

Fortunately, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) overrode the FDA's decision to enforce these fees; however for the timing of your agency's decision which caused unnecessary and avoidable panic and concern on the part of the distilleries across the nation I am awarding you my Golden Fleece Award. The federal government should not hinder companies that seek to fill the voids to the betterment of the American people in times of national crisis.

Please recommend your need for authority from Congress to address this issue effectively in the future. I urge you to notify us as soon as possible. I look forward to working with you to empower our small businesses to best serve their communities.

Sincerely,

French Hill  
Member of Congress