



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

JAN 8 2016

Mr. David D. Schmitt
President
United States Animal Health Association
4221 Mitchell Avenue
Saint Joseph, Missouri 64507

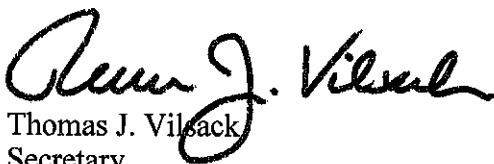
Dear Mr. Schmitt:

Thank you for your letter of November 30, 2015, in which you forwarded resolutions passed by the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) at its 2015 annual meeting.

I appreciate USAHA sharing its views on issues of importance to your organization. I look forward to further dialogue with USAHA on these and other issues as we evaluate the health needs of animals in our country and move ahead with important initiatives, including a number with human health implications. Dr. John Clifford and other officials with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service look forward to discussing these resolutions and other matters with you when they meet with USAHA representatives during the March 2016 visit of your organization's government council.

Again, thank you for your letter. I value USAHA's longstanding partnership with USDA and look forward to continued collaboration in advancing our mutual efforts to safeguard and promote U.S. animal health.

Sincerely,


Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary