



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 27 2006

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Steven E. Gressitt, M.D.
Acting Secretary
Maine Unused Drug Disposal Group
314 Clark Road
Unity, ME 04988


Dear Dr. Gressitt:

Thank you for your letter of November 22, 2006, to Administrator Johnson in which you recommend that the Agency establish a national, standardized unused medicines collection, disposal, and education program. Administrator Johnson asked that I respond on his behalf.

EPA supports the use of well-designed and operated pharmaceutical take-back programs for proper disposal of consumer pharmaceutical wastes. Currently, EPA is participating in an Inter-Agency Steering Committee on Drug Disposal that seeks to develop viable and realistic disposal alternatives for medicinal wastes. EPA will consider your recommendations as we continue to work with other federal agencies to research these issues and alternatives.

You may wish to contact Matt Hale, Director of EPA's Office of Solid Waste at (703) 308-8895 if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,


Susan Parker Bodine
Assistant Administrator