



April 20, 2016

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Chairman and CEO
AbbVie Inc.

Vincent A. Forlenza
CEO
Becton Dickinson & Co.

Andrew Witty
CEO
GlaxoSmithKline

Severin Schwan
CEO
Roche Holding AG

Alex Gorsky
CEO
Johnson & Johnson

Kenneth C. Frasier
CEO
Merck & Co.

Joseph Jimenez
CEO
Novartis International AG

Lars Sorensen
CEO
Novo Nordisk

Ian C. Read
Chairman and CEO
Pfizer Inc.

Olivier Brandicourt
CEO
Sanofi S.A.

Dear Sirs:

We, the undersigned investors, request that the company provide us with a policy statement or current thinking on pharmaceutical industry responsibility for take back of unused and expired prescription drugs. The lack of free, convenient programs for proper disposal of prescription drugs and accessories such as needles and syringes, contributes to water pollution, illicit drug use, drug addiction, and threats to sanitation workers. Most U.S. communities lack free, convenient, on-going collection programs that could help alleviate these problems. Less than 1% of U.S. pharmacies offer a drug take back program.

In 2013, overdoses from prescription pain medications killed more than 16,000 Americans. President Obama has stated that most young people who begin misusing prescription drugs get them from the family medicine cabinet. Many consumers hold on to unneeded drugs because they lack convenient collection and disposal options. Lack of disposal programs has also been linked to poisoning of children and pets, and seniors accidentally taking the wrong medicine. Three billion needles are used in U.S. homes annually to deliver medication; improper disposal puts sanitation workers at risk.

Consumers lacking disposal programs in their communities often flush old drugs down the toilet, contributing to water pollution. Water treatment plants are not equipped to remove such medicines. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency advises consumers not to flush prescription drugs, but to return medications to a disposal or take back program, but such programs are rare. As a result, Americans are ingesting other people's medicine in their drinking water. An Associated Press investigation found antibiotics, mood stabilizers and sex hormones in the drinking water supplies serving 41 million Americans. The presence of pharmaceuticals has resulted in demonstrated impacts on marine life. For example, synthetic estrogens in oral contraceptives flushed into waterways have been linked to impaired reproduction in aquatic species.

We are concerned that the U.S. pharmaceutical industry does not have a policy or plan for collection and processing of expired and unused prescription medications. The Drug Enforcement Administration has partnered with state and local law enforcement agencies to hold periodic National Take-Back Days for medicines, and collected more than 5 million pounds of medications with just 10 events. However, far more convenient and ongoing collection services are needed. The Obama Administration's National Drug Control Strategy report calls for establishment of long-term, sustainable disposal programs in communities.

We believe that companies that put medications on the market and profit from them should be primarily responsible for take back. Extended Producer Responsibility and Product Stewardship are policies that shift accountability for collection and recycling partially or fully from taxpayers and governments to producers. Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Hungary, Mexico, Portugal and Spain are among the countries where pharmaceutical-financed take back programs are already in place. A take back program in France collected 30 million pounds of drugs in 2013.

We hope you will work with industry peers to develop policies leading to a national drug take back program, and provide primary financial responsibility for the program. We believe it's time for the industry to manage the end of life portion of the product life cycle in the same manner that it manages design and marketing of its goods and services.

Please direct responses to Conrad MacKerron of As You Sow who is coordinating this initiative. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Conrad MacKerron
Senior Vice President
As You Sow

On behalf of:

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Treasurer, CFO
Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment Fund

Rev. Michael H. Crosby, OFM Cap.
Executive Director
Seventh Generation Interfaith Coalition for Responsible Investment

Michelle de Cordova
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Father Seamus Finn
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