

Dear Representative Dingell,

I am appalled at the FDA's decision to ban generic production of an off-patent medication (albuterol) and to re-issue a new patent on the same drug. In what can only be called an anti-competitive, anti-free-market, monopolistic move, the FDA now allows only three companies to make my asthma inhaler, all of which have dramatically increased the price to me. While the FDA attempts to justify this decision by stating that a change was necessary "for the environment," other countries have made the transition to newer formulations without price-gouging or handing out effective monopolies. One could argue that these same pharmaceutical companies have profited from trashing the environment for generations and therefore ought to bear the cost of changing to a safer formulation. No other industry has brokered a new patent/monopoly from the government for public goods when forced to clean up their own environmental mess. This is a very bad precedent for the government to set - not only in terms of pharmaceuticals, but also in terms of all potentially greener industries.

My medicine has doubled in cost, and is likely to rise even further. Here is what I wish I could have done with the money that the FDA handed to big pharmaceutical companies' profits (circle one or more):

- 1) Invested it in my kids' future.
- 2) Invested it in my health so that I don't cost the taxpayers more.
- 3) Given it to your campaign.
- 4) Donated it to those in need.
- 5) Bought groceries.
- 6) None of your business.

My choice is to either not breathe, or pay. I hate being robbed, particularly by a government agency pandering to mega-profit industries. I am eager for the class-action lawsuit that will undoubtedly occur, and I cringe to think of how much that lawsuit will cost our government. Wouldn't it be better for all concerned if this appalling decision was overturned now and generic production of an already generic medication was encouraged?

Eagerly awaiting your response,