

***The Poison Free Poultry Act of 2009 bans the use of an arsenic-based poultry feed additive called roxarsone***

Hauppauge, NY – On Monday, Rep. Steve Israel announced new legislation to get arsenic out of the U.S. poultry supply. Rep. Israel's Poison Free Poultry Act (H.R.3624) bans the use of an arsenical called roxarsone, which is commonly added to chicken and poultry feed, from being used as an additive in the U.S. food supply.

"Nobody should have to wonder if their Thanksgiving turkey is secretly carrying a carcinogen," said Rep. Israel. "Roxarsone is an unnecessary and dangerous arsenical that we don't need in our food and that we don't want in our food. It's time we stop big factory farms from trying to make their chicken pink by exposing us all to a toxin."

"Roxarsone is an arsenic-containing antimicrobial drug that is widely used in poultry production and to a lesser extent in swine production to make food animals grow faster, improve their pigmentation, and to combat intestinal parasites. Studies have shown that some of the arsenic fed to chickens remains in the edible portions of the birds. Arsenic has also been found in poultry waste, where it poses environmental and human health risks when the waste is managed, often by spreading on agricultural fields as fertilizer for food crops," said Dr. Keeve Nachman, Science Director at the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future and a leading researcher on arsenic in the food supply.

The Food and Drug Administration Center for Veterinary Medicine regulates tolerance levels for animal drug residue. The tolerance levels for arsenic in edible animal tissue are more than three decades old, predating the latest cancer and arsenic exposure research. Arsenic has been linked to cancer, diabetes and other health problems.

Rep. Israel's legislation bans roxarsone for use as an additive in the food supply.

According to EPA estimates, the average American adult consumes more than 60 pounds of poultry a year. One way to avoid buying arsenic-exposed meat is by purchasing products labeled "USDA Organic," which means free of antimicrobial drugs, including roxarsone.

Rep. Israel's legislation is endorsed by Union of Concerned Scientists, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, The Humane Society of the United States, The Clean Water Network, Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition, Food & Water Watch, The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, Waterkeeper Alliance, Illinois Citizens for Clean Air & Water, The Organic Consumers Association, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT), Ohio Environmental Council, Friends of the Earth, The Center for Food Safety, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, Sierra Club, The Center for Biological Diversity, Friends of

Family Farmers and Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future.

Rep. Israel is a leader on consumer protection issues. He has also introduced legislation to combat counterfeit drugs and label household cleaning products.

Rep. Israel serves on the House Appropriations Committee.