

## Explaining FDA and Regulatory Capture



-A common event for FDA officials who leave their government posts is to work as special advisors to the food, chemical and pharmaceutical industries. FDA officials are frequently rewarded with lucrative positions at the companies they were regulating.



-Corruption of governmental and scientific committees by the food industry was disclosed as far back as the 1960's.



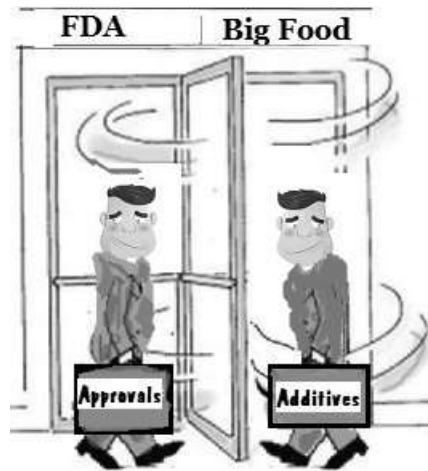
-It was revealed in an article in *Science* (1972) that the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Food Protection Committee was being funded by the food, chemical and packaging industries. The FDA relied on the NAS committee for independent evaluations.



-Numerous FDA regulators have held high-ranking positions at food, chemical and pharmaceutical companies like Monsanto, going on as FDA officials to approve the very projects (such as rBGH) they were in charge of in their previous corporate posts.



-Federal agencies like the FDA are vulnerable to capture by the food and chemical industries. The industries' resources far outweigh those of the government and regulators are often forced to rely on scientific data **generated by these industries**. The FDA may be unable to independently verify the data provided by these industries. (Robin, *"The World According to Monsanto: Pollution, Corruption and the Control of Our Food Supply"*, 2010.)



-The “revolving door” scenario often fosters close relationships between the regulator and the regulated. (Robin, 2010)



-“The animal drug industry strongly influences the regulatory agency—the FDA—decision-making.” (Institute of Medicine report, 2007)



-Speaking on Regulatory Capture of the FDA, “This psychologically, scientifically, and financially imbalanced relationship and the absence of other parties forces the FDA to ration its demands and puts the agency at risk of being captured by the economic interests it regulates.” (Egilman, D., Presler, A., and Valentin, C., “Avoiding Regulatory Capture of the FDA”, 2010)