Amanda Kowalski
3525 Aynsley Drive , Rochester Hills, Michigan 48306

December 27, 2007

Representative Joe Knollenberg
U.S. House of Representatives
2349 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0001

Subject: Please help elephants Tina and Jewel now!

Dear Representative Knollenberg,

I am writing to you out of grave concern for two elephants named Tina and Jewel who are suffering from severe physical debilitation as a result of performing in the Cole Brothers Circus for several decades. I ask that you to please urge the USDA to confiscate these elephants as soon as possible and send them to an accredited sanctuary, as their health is failing and their lives are in critical danger.

Tina and Jewel are Asian elephants in their early forties who have endured lives of hardship and abuse traveling with the Cole Bros. Circus. The USDA did the right thing by ordering them off the road earlier this year, after inspectors documented the sad state of their health. However, Tina and Jewel have recently been discovered at an unapproved facility in rural Texas owned by the Davenport family, who have been leasing the elephants from Cole Bros. Circus.

For the past several months, both elephants have been confined to a tiny outdoor yard enclosed by electrical hotwire, surrounded by circus refuse and other garbage, or locked inside a dilapidated tin barn. Four of five other elephants who have been "retired" from the Cole Bros. Circus have died, most within weeks of being taken off the road. I am gravely concerned that Jewel and Tina will meet the same fate if they are left at the mercy of a company with a long history of abusing elephants and violating federal animal welfare laws.

I urge you to please ask the USDA to immediately confiscate these two elephants and send them to The Elephant Sanctuary (TES) in Tennessee, a USDA-approved quarantine facility for elephants that has a proven track record of rehabilitating elephants who have become debilitated from years of life in the circus or zoo.

Sincerely,
Amanda Kowalski
3525 Aynsley Drive
Rochester Hills, Michigan 48306