

**Testimony of Kendra Kimbirauskas,
Owner of Goat Mountain Pastured Meats
Linn County, Oregon
March 24, 2015**

Chair Witt, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2598. My name is Kendra Kimbirauskas and I come from many generations of farmers. I grew up milking cows on a dairy farm and I am here today because I raise swine and poultry on 70 acres in Linn County.

Antibiotic resistance is a real threat, which is rendering our most medically important antibiotics less effective. Because of this people throughout the medical community are increasingly judicious when prescribing antibiotics.

On my farm, I am also concerned that the antibiotics that I rely on when I have a sick animal are becoming less effective. Just as I only take antibiotics for myself when I absolutely need them, I only use antibiotics on my farm when I have no other choice with a sick animal.

But as many farmers I know and myself attempt to be responsible with our antibiotic use, it appalls me that industrial animal agricultural operations freely feed medically important antibiotics to animals that don't need them under the guise of a term that they call "food production medicine."

Not only is this practice irresponsible, this practice is putting all of our health at risk.

The reality is that industrial animal agriculture is abusing those antibiotics that we rely on in both human medicine and on the farm. They are feeding our antibiotics to animals that don't need them and that are not sick. Medically important antibiotics should not be a replacement for good animal husbandry and the practice of feeding sub-therapeutic medicines to animals must come to an end.

HB 2598 makes perfect sense. It prevents the misuse of antibiotics in confinement operations, while continuing to allow the therapeutic use of these medicines when there are no other options on the farm.

Further, the reporting requirement of this bill would only apply to federally-defined concentrated animal feeding operations, which are a small percentage of the farming operations that we have in Oregon.

I ask for your support of HB 2598 so that we can keep our antibiotics working for your families and mine.