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Jerome-

Per your request, the following is Beef Northwest's comments on Oregon HB 2598.

Beef Northwest is a progressive feeding company who intentionally structures the management of our operations in such a manner as to mitigate the need for metaphylactic use of antibiotics. However, when an animal's health risk dictates we will employ preventative treatments with the animal's best interest intended in accordance with sound animal welfare and husbandry practices. Additionally, all antibiotics are prescribed or administered under the directive and supervision of a Ph.D. nutritionist and/or an Oregon licensed veterinarian.

Oregon HB 2598 is unnecessarily repetitive considering: 1) in accordance to their directive the FDA thoroughly investigates the use of animal antibiotics prior to the development and implementation of rules and regulation dictating the use and control of each product and 2) the issues identified by Oregon HB 2598 have been considered and will be addressed by the Veterinary Feed Directives (VFD) when nationally implemented in December of 2016. Furthermore, Oregon HB 2598 would place an unnecessary burden on beef producers in the state, giving them at a distinct competitive disadvantage to other producers around the nation.

Presumably because the authors of the bill have neither formal training nor history in human or veterinary medicine, they utilize verbiage which erroneously calls into question the use of macrolide antibiotics. Macrolide antibiotics are unsuitable in human medicine rendering the resistant claim unfitting.

Finally and most importantly; the products that we produce are confidently and comfortably consumed by each of us and our families and we confidently and safely live within the environments that we influence. We proudly have the safest production practices in the world.

Sincerely,

C. Tylor Braden

Operations Manager

Beef Northwest

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