

Dear Senate Healthcare Committee Administrator Rockowitz;

Please submit the following written testimony for the record regarding Senate Bill 920.

I support Senate Bill 920 that will end the overuse of antibiotics on healthy livestock in Oregon. This bill will ensure sick animals get the medication they need, while ending overuse that contributes to the spread of deadly, antibiotic-resistant bacteria in our communities.

Some 80 percent of antibiotics sold in the United States are used on animals. These drugs are fed mostly to healthy cows, pigs and chickens to make them grow faster and to prevent disease on today's industrial farms. This overuse is one of the leading causes of antibiotic-resistant bacteria that infect 2 million Americans a year.

And the CDC warns that unless we stop this overuse, our antibiotics may stop working all together.

While public health campaigns are helping to curb the use of antibiotics in humans -- Oregon has ranked second in the nation for lowest antibiotic use in humans -- antibiotic use in livestock is increasing. Let's make sure only sick animals get these important drugs in Oregon, so we all can live healthier!

I ask you to take a stand for my family's health by ending the routine use of antibiotics in animals. Please approve SB 920, a common-sense bill that will make sure sick animals get the drugs they need, while stopping their use on healthy animals.

Sincerely,

Ms. Amy Whitworth  
Portland, OR 97214-5030