



CENTER FOR  
FOOD SAFETY

April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015

The Honorable Peter Courtney  
Oregon Senate President

The Honorable Diane Rosenbaum  
Oregon Senate Majority Leader

The Honorable Ginny Burdick  
Oregon Senate President Pro Tempore

The Honorable Ted Ferrioli  
Oregon Senate Republican Leader

**Re: In support of S. 920: An act relating to protecting antibiotics for human public health**

Dear President Courtney, President Pro Tempore Burdick, Majority Leader Rosenbaum, and Republican Leader Ferrioli,

Center for Food Safety (CFS) is a national, non-profit public interest organization that works to protect human health and the environment by curbing the use of harmful food production methods and by promoting safe and sustainable alternatives. CFS represents over 650,000 citizens around the country, and on behalf of our almost 18,000 members in Oregon, CFS urges you to support S. 920, a bill to protect antibiotics for human public health, as well as declaring the current antibiotic-use situation in agriculture as an emergency.

As underscored by the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Food and Drug Administration, the overuse of non-therapeutic antibiotics in animal agriculture creates a serious human health risk that needs to be addressed. The FDA and the CDC have stated that there is a definitive link between the routine use of antibiotics for disease prevention and growth promotion on industrial farms and the crisis of bacterial resistance in humans.

Just two types of drug-resistant bacteria carried by food – Salmonella and Campylobacter – sicken at least 410,000 people annually in the United States. Research continues to find that additional bacteria such as E. coli and even Staphylococcus aureus may be acquiring antibiotic resistance due to overuse of antibiotics in food production. While it is not yet possible to quantify the magnitude of the antibiotic resistance epidemic, there is sufficient evidence of human health risk to justify swift and concerted action to greatly improve stewardship in farming and ranching.

The Center for Food Safety proudly supports S. 920 as it would require livestock producers to limit the amount of medically important antibiotics administered to food producing animals. It

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would also require livestock producers maintain more stringent records with regards to antibiotic use and be more transparent in the form of reports filed to the Oregon Health Authority.

It is critical that we address the serious threat that antibiotic resistance poses to the public, our economy, and our national and global security. Therefore, we strongly urge you to publicly support S. 920 so that Oregonians may benefit from a healthier and safer food system.

Respectfully submitted,



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Center for Food Safety



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Center for Food Safety

Cc: Members of the Oregon State Senate