



15 March 2017

TO: Senate Committee on Health Care

RE: Support of Senate Bill 785

My name is John Neumeister. I am the owner and operator of CATTAIL CREEK LAMB. I was raised on a sheep farm in Southern Ohio and have lived and farmed near Junction City Oregon since 1973. I work with three ranching enterprises in Western Oregon that produce 100% grass fed lambs that are grown without the routine feeding of antibiotics. We do use antibiotics if necessary for sick or injured individuals. Treated lambs are removed from our program and sold as conventionally raised after recovery. I anticipate that we will sell 1500 to 2000 antibiotic-free lambs in the next year.

Conventional domestic livestock are often raised in unsanitary and overcrowded environments where they are stressed and subject to disease. The routine feeding of antibiotics to these animals is a band aid applied to salvage meat production in an unhealthy and inhumane environment.

We believe that the feeding of antibiotics to ruminant livestock is unnecessary if they are allowed to spend their lives grazing on pastures designed for the expression of natural behavior and good health. Oregon is blessed with a mild Mediterranean climate where grass grows nearly year round. We are well positioned to easily and efficiently produce antibiotic-free meat that enjoys a high degree of consumer support in the marketplace.

I believe that recent federal legislation regarding the use of antibiotics in livestock is an inadequate response to the serious and deteriorating problem of antibiotics resistance exacerbated by the overuse of antibiotics in conventional meat production. Senate Bill 785 is needed to ensure that the health of Oregon citizens is protected.

John Neumeister
CATTIAL CREEK LAMB
95363 Grimes Road
Junction City, Oregon 97448
971-219-2022
www.cattailcreeklamb.com