

March 3, 2016

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Chairman, Agriculture Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Ranking Member, Agriculture Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cochran, Chairman Moran, Ranking Member Mikulski, and Ranking Member Merkley,

We are writing in strong support of the Administration's request for an additional \$35 million for the Department of Agriculture for research, monitoring and surveillance under the Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria (CARB) strategy.

Efforts in both human health and animal health are leading to more judicious use of antibiotics. A key development in animal health is FDA's Judicious Use policy, which will eliminate production uses of medically important antibiotics and put all remaining therapeutic uses of antibiotics administered in feed or water under the supervision of a veterinarian.

A stronger Federal system of data collection, monitoring and enhanced surveillance will greatly assist in understanding the impacts of these changes. That's why the added \$10 million in the Administration's request for the USDA/APHIS is so urgent. The Department of Agriculture has worked with the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine to plan activities that will add to our understanding of how antibiotics are used in veterinary medicine and animal agriculture and how those uses affect antibiotic resistance levels. This information will not only assist policymakers but will assist veterinarians and producers as they make management decisions about the use of antibiotics on their farms.

We appreciate Congress providing approximately \$378 million in additional CARB funding in last year's Omnibus funding bill, but note that the entire increase was for activities in human health, none in animal health. Those in veterinary medicine and animal agriculture are working hard to implement FDA's Judicious Use strategy by the end of this year and we need our federal partners to be prepared with the funding to work with us.

Please ensure that veterinary medicine and animal agriculture are included as partners with the human health community in the CARB strategy and provide the funding in the USDA request.

American Association of Avian Pathologists
American Association of Bovine Practitioners
American Association of Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals Multistate Initiative
American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners
American Association of Swine Veterinarians
American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians

American Dairy Goat Association
American Dairy Science Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Feed Industry Association
American Goat Federation
American Sheep Industry Association
American Veterinary Medical Association
Animal Agriculture Alliance
Animal Health Institute
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Association of Public & Land-grant Universities
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Association of State & Territorial Health Officials
Infectious Diseases Society of America
March of Dimes
National Aquaculture Association
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Farmers Union
National Grain and Feed Association
National Milk Producers Federation
National Pork Producers Council
North American Meat Institute
The Pew Charitable Trusts
US Animal Health Association