

## Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 85-1

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Note: The views expressed below are my own and do not represent any organization.

Respected Chair Golden and Vice Chair Girod, Senator Prozanski, Senator Smith and Senator Taylor

I strongly urge respected members to **support SB85-1** to protect the public health of the residents of OR because usage of Sub-therapeutic antibiotics can lead to microbial resistance and the advent of superbugs.

Antibiotics were approved for use as animal feed additives in 1950 after it was discovered that their use increased growth rate, improved feed utilization, and reduced mortality and morbidity from clinical and subclinical infections in animals. Subtherapeutic use of antibiotics in animal feed grew extensively and concern has arisen that this "indiscriminate" use of antibiotics could lead to increased numbers of antimicrobial-resistant bacteria and ultimately compromise treatment of human bacterial infections.

Continuous use of sub-therapeutic antibiotics can lead to the development of microbial resistance, which can result in another pandemic like Covid19.

Antimicrobial resistance is an urgent global public health threat, **killing at least 1.27 million people worldwide** and associated with **nearly 5 million deaths in 2019**, according to [a report released in The Lancet](#). **In the U.S., more than 2.8 million antimicrobial-resistant infections occur each year. More than 35,000 people die as a result**, according to CDC's [2019 Antibiotic Resistance \(AR\) Threats Report](#).

Therefore, as the bill advocates for a study of environmental impacts on public health and animal welfare, the massive confinement of animals in CAFOS will always lead to illnesses that sub-therapeutic antibiotics must then treat.

The passage of SB85-1 will advocate for such a report which can conclusively offer evidence on this issue and keep Oregonians safe. I strongly urge you to consider our safety when making a final decision on this bill and that includes the health of your own family and loved ones.

Second, there are six types of drugs typically used on animals.<sup>1</sup> These are

- Beta-agonists
- Steroid hormones
- Antioxidants
- Antibiotics
- Arsenicals
- Coccidiostats

It is strongly recommended that all of these types are mentioned in the report for clarity.

### **Beta-agonists:**

Two beta-agonist drugs, ractopamine, and zilpaterol, are widely used in U.S. meat production. They are fed to animals during the final period of weight gain before slaughter to encourage a last-minute increase in muscle mass and overall carcass weight. The full risks that these drugs pose to consumers and the environment remain at least partly unknown because no one has conducted an adequate, rigorous assessment.<sup>2</sup>

### **Steroid Hormones:**

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/files/animal\\_drug\\_es\\_10\\_26\\_77814.pdf](https://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/files/animal_drug_es_10_26_77814.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/files/animal\\_drug\\_es\\_10\\_26\\_77814.pdf](https://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/files/animal_drug_es_10_26_77814.pdf)

Six different hormones are approved in U.S. cattle production, administered either by implants or added to feed. In 1988, concerns about the potential health risks of drug residues led the European Union (EU) to ban importation of the meat of hormone-treated animals.<sup>3</sup>

### **Antioxidants:**

Ethoxyquin is a synthetic antioxidant approved as a feed additive. While technically not an animal "drug," it raises similar concerns as the other drugs outlined in this report. Ethoxyquin helps prevent the fats in livestock feed from becoming rancid, essentially allowing products to have longer shelf lives by inhibiting natural decay processes. Some poultry farms also add ethoxyquin to animals' drinking water to enhance the yellow color of egg yolk.<sup>4</sup>

### **Antibiotics:**

Antibiotics are used in food animal production for three different purposes: treating disease (therapy), preventing infections (prophylaxis), or promoting growth and feed efficiency. Disease prevention and growth promotion both involve giving drugs to healthy animals and are considered nontherapeutic uses. Agricultural use of antibiotics has contributed significantly to the development of resistance among the microorganisms that the drugs are designed to target because exposing organisms to sub-lethal concentrations of antibiotics drives the selection of resistant genes.

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<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

*The proposed act does not regulate the prohibition on the usage of sub-therapeutic antibiotics, which can ultimately increase the chances of another pandemic.<sup>5</sup> Antimicrobial resistance can create super bugs.*

### **Coccidiostats:**

Coccidiostats are a class of anti-parasitic drugs designed to prevent an intestinal infection caused by a single-celled parasite (coccidia) that affects pigs, poultry, and cattle. Existing scientific literature analyzing coccidiostats' environmental and human health impacts is extremely limited.<sup>6</sup>

### **Arsenicals:**

Arsenic based compounds, or arsenicals, were approved for use in animal feed for growth promotion, improved feed efficiency, and desirable pigmentation. Despite increased evidence of the risks associated with arsenic exposure and the voluntary withdrawal of organic arsenical pesticide products due to concerns of negative health impacts, the average American's cumulative exposure to arsenic greatly increased since FDA first approved arsenicals in animal feed.<sup>7</sup>

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Altamush Saeed

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<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*