



June 30, 2008

The Honorable John D. Dingell  
Chairman  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Joe Barton  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Dingell and Ranking Member Barton:

As you know, the current Animal Drug User Fee Act (ADUFA) law expires September 30, 2008. We are writing to urge you to support a clean reauthorization of ADUFA.

We are opposed to legislative changes that are outside the scope of ADUFA, such as efforts to ban certain food animal antibiotics. A top priority for all livestock producers is the health and well-being of our animals. Antibiotics and antimicrobials are an important and necessary tool in protecting animal health and well-being. Efforts to ban the use of certain antibiotics or antimicrobials must be based on sound science and include thorough risk assessment analyses. If not, it could be very harmful to both human and animal health.

Eliminating the ability of a producer or veterinarian to prevent disease with antibiotics would result in sick and suffering animals and would not improve public health or address the real concern of antimicrobial resistance in humans. By law, no meat sold in the United States is allowed to contain antibiotic residues that violate Food and Drug Administration (FDA) standards. Antibiotics used in livestock must go through a rigorous scientific testing process before being approved by FDA. This process assures animals remain healthy and the food supply remains safe.

Compliance with producer and veterinarian responsible-use programs will accomplish the goal of protecting the well-being and health of animals and the public. We are strongly opposed to Congressional action in determining the safety and efficacy of antibiotics. We ask that Congress empower the FDA so they may do their job effectively based on science and a transparent process.

We urge you to support the reauthorization of ADUFA without any amendments. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Texas Association of Dairyman  
Texas Cattle Feeders Association  
Texas Pork Producers Association  
Texas Poultry Federation and Affiliates  
Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association  
Texas Farm Bureau  
Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association

cc: Members of House Committee on Energy and Commerce