

**The Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act of 2003**  
**S. 1460/H.R. 2932**

**Summary**

Mounting scientific evidence shows that the routine feeding of antibiotics to farm animals that are not sick promotes development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria that can be transferred to people, making it harder to treat certain infections in humans. Antibiotic feed additives are used to promote slightly faster growth and to compensate for crowded, stressful, and often unsanitary animal-husbandry conditions. This “nontherapeutic” agricultural use of antibiotics, which occurs without a prescription, is estimated to constitute the *majority* of antibiotics used in the U.S. each year.

The American Medical Association, the American Public Health Association, the National Association of County and City Health Officials, and the National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture are among the more than 300 health, consumer, environmental, sustainable agriculture, and other organizations that have called for an end to the routine use of medically important antibiotics as feed additives. The National Academy of Sciences estimates that a ban on nontherapeutic antibiotics would raise meat prices by less than \$5 to \$10 per person annually, and has called for “substantial efforts” to reduce agricultural overuse of antibiotics.

Although the Food and Drug Administration is theoretically empowered to withdraw agricultural antibiotics from the market under existing law, in practice its procedures are so cumbersome that such withdrawals would take years for each type of antibiotics. Indeed, withdrawal proceedings for other kinds of agricultural drugs have taken up to 20 years to complete.

To avoid these unacceptable delays, the bill amends the Federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act to withdraw approvals for nontherapeutic agricultural use of eight named antibiotics or classes of antibiotics. The covered antibiotics are penicillins, tetracyclines, macrolides (including but not limited to erythromycin and tylosin), lincomycin, bacitracin, virginiamycin, aminoglycosides, and sulfonamides. All are used in human medicine or are so closely related to human use drugs that they trigger cross-resistance.

The cancellations automatically take effect two years after the date of enactment unless, prior to that date, the antibiotic's producer demonstrates to a reasonable degree of certainty that nontherapeutic use of the drug does not contribute to development of resistance affecting humans.

The bills would ban *only* the nontherapeutic uses of the named drugs. Nontherapeutic use is defined as use of the covered drugs “in the absence of clinical signs of disease in the animal for growth promotion, feed efficiency, weight gain, routine disease prevention, or other routine purpose.” By specifically targeting the nontherapeutic use of antibiotics, the bill properly allows for sick animals to receive treatment and for legitimate prophylaxis. The bills leaves farmers with many options including other nontherapeutic antibiotics that are not used in human medicine, as well as improved animal husbandry practices such as those utilized in Europe and on some U.S. farms.

In addition, the legislation provides that if a nontherapeutic antibiotic that is now used only in animals (i.e., one that is not one of the eight named antibiotics) also becomes potentially important in human medicine, the drug would be automatically restricted from nontherapeutic use in agricultural animals unless FDA determines that such use does not contribute to development of resistance affecting humans.

An antibiotic is defined as becoming potentially important in human medicine if FDA issues an Investigational New Drug determination or receives a New Drug Application for the compound.

To assist public health officials in tracking implementation of the phase out, the bill also requires producers of agricultural antibiotics to submit data on the quantity of drugs they sell, along with information on the claimed purpose and the dosage form of those drugs, beginning in 2005.

The Senate bill also authorizes funds to farmers to help defray costs of phasing out nontherapeutic use of medically important antibiotics, and provides for research and demonstration projects to assist farmers in this transition.

7.03\*

**Endorsements for “The Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act of 2003”  
(total: 287 as of 10/29/2003)**

**HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS:**

Aids Action  
AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
American Academy of Neurology  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Holistic Nurses' Association  
American Medical Association  
American Medical Student Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science  
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs  
Association of Reproductive Health Professionals  
Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine  
Aurum Foundation (NH)  
Cancer Action NY  
Children's Health Environmental Coalition (NJ)  
Council for Preventive Medicine (MN)  
Connecticut State Medical Society  
Gay Men's Health Crisis  
Health and Medicine Policy Research Group (IL)  
Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition (NY)  
Institute for Children's Environmental Health (WA)  
Iowa Medical Society  
Leukemia and Lymphoma Society  
Maine Chapter - American Academy of Pediatrics  
Maine Labor Group on Health  
Maine Medical Association  
Maine Osteopathic Association  
Maine State Nurses Association  
Medical Society of the District of Columbia  
Michigan Antibiotic Resistance Reduction Coalition  
Minnesota Children's Health Environmental Coalition  
Minnesota Institute of Public Health  
National Association of Community Health Centers, Inc.  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Center for Policy Research for Women & Families  
National Medical Association  
National Organization for Rare Disorders  
National Ovarian Cancer Coalition  
Nevada State Medical Association  
New England Coalition for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (RI)  
New Hampshire Medical Association  
New Hampshire Nurse Practitioner Association  
New Hampshire Public Health Association  
New Mexico Medical Society

Northland Health and Wellness (MN)  
Ohio Public Health Association, Inc.  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Rhode Island Health Center  
San Francisco Medical Society  
State Medical Society of Wisconsin  
The Academy of Medicine of Toledo and Lucas County (OH)  
The Breast Cancer Fund  
The Medical Society of Virginia  
Trust for America's Health  
Vermont Medical Society

**CONSUMER ORGANIZATIONS:**

Center for Science in the Public Interest  
Coalition for Consumer Rights  
Consumer Federation of America  
Consumers Union  
Dirigo Alliance (ME)  
Maine People's Alliance  
Oregon State Public Interest Research Group  
U.S. PIRG  
Vermont Public Interest Research Group

**ANIMAL PROTECTION**

**ORGANIZATIONS:**

Alliance for Animals, Inc. (WI)  
American Humane Association  
American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)  
Doris Day Animal League  
F.H. King: Students of Sustainable Agriculture (WI)  
Fund for Animals  
Humane Education Network (CA)  
Humane Farming Association  
Humane Society of the United States  
Marion County Humane Society, Inc. (KY)  
National Anti-Vivisection Society  
Protecting Animals USA (IL)  
Society for Animal Protective Legislation

**SUSTAINABLE AGRIC./FARMING**

**ORGANIZATIONS:**

ACCORD Ag., Inc. (TX)  
Alliance for a Responsible Swine Industry (NC)  
Alliance for Sustainability (MN)  
Alliance for Sustainable Communities (MD)  
American Livestock Breeds Conservancy (NC)  
Center for Food Safety  
Citizens for Humane and Wholesome Food (IL)  
Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CA)  
Consortium for Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education  
Ecological Health Organization (CT)

Families Against Rural Messes (IL)  
Family Farms for the Future (MO)  
Farm Sanctuary (NY)  
Food Animals Concern Trust  
Glenview Prairie Preservation Project (IL)  
Henry A. Wallace Center for Agricultural and Environmental Policy at Winrock International  
Illinois Stewardship Alliance  
Institute for a Sustainable Future (MN)  
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy  
Institute for Local Self-Reliance (MN)  
Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement Land Stewardship Project  
Landloss Prevention Project (NC)  
MacArthur Agro-Ecology Research Center (FL)  
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association  
Maine Rural Workers Coalition  
Minnesota Citizens Organized Acting Together  
My Mothers Garden Inc. (FL)  
National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture  
National Catholic Rural Life Conference  
Northeast Organic Farming Association -- New Jersey  
Northeast Organic Farming Association -- Vermont  
Northeast Organic Farming Association -- Massachusetts  
Northeast Organic Farming Association -- New Hampshire  
Northeast Organic Farming Association - New York  
Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association  
Ohio Family Farm Coalition  
Organic Consumers Association  
Organic Independents; MN Dept. of Agriculture, Organic Advisory Task Force  
Organic Trade Association  
Organic Valley (WI)  
PCC Farmland Fund (WA)  
PCC Natural Markets (WA)  
Philadelphia Fair Food Project  
Regional Farm & Food Project (NY)  
Rocky Mountain Farmers Union (CO)  
Roseland Organic Farms (MI)  
Safe Home Farm (WI)  
Sharing Help Awareness United Network (IA)  
Stonyfield Farm (NH)  
Sustainable Earth (IN)  
The Minnesota Project  
Valley Dale Alliance (IL)  
Vermont Association of Conservation Districts  
Wholesome Harvest LLC (IA)

## ***Endorsements for “The Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act of 2003” (cont.)***

Women, Food and Agriculture Network

### **RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS:**

Adrian Dominican Sisters (MI)  
Catholic Charities Archdiocese of  
Louisville (KY)  
Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural  
Ministry (MN)  
Cumberland Countians for Peace & Justice  
(TN)  
Diocese of Sioux City, Iowa  
Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island,  
Environment Committee  
Michigan Catholic Rural Life Coalition  
Minnesota Catholic Conference  
Northeast Ohio American Friends Service  
Committee (OH)  
The Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland  
(ME)  
United Church of Christ - Network for  
Environmental & Economic  
Responsibility (TN)

### **ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS:**

Action for a Clean Environment (GA)  
Allies of the Earth  
American Bottom Conservancy (IL)  
American P.I.E. (Public Information on the  
Environment) (MN)  
American Rivers  
Amigos Bravos (NM)  
Association of Irrigated Residents (CA)  
Audubon Society of NY State/Audubon  
International  
Belmont County Defenders, Inc. (OH)  
Blue Heron Environmental Network, Inc.  
(WV)  
Border Ecology Project (AZ)  
Buckeye Environmental Network (OH)  
Butte Environmental Council (CA)  
Center for Environmental Citizenship  
Center on Race, Poverty and the  
Environment (CA)  
Charles River Watershed Association  
(MA)  
Citizens Action (IL)  
Citizens for Alternatives to Chemical  
Contamination (MI)  
Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future  
(PennFuture)  
Citizens for Sludge-free Land (NH)  
Citizens of Putnam County for Clean Air  
and Water (OH)  
Citizens Organizing Project (IL)  
Citizens Vigilance Committee (OH)  
Clean Water Action  
Clean Water Action Alliance (MN)  
Clean Water for North Carolina

Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River  
(MN)  
Coast Action Group (CA)  
Colorado Clean Water Action  
Community Environmental Council (CA)  
Concerned Citizens Coalition of Roane,  
Calhoun & Gilmer Counties (WV)  
Concerned Citizens Committee of SE Ohio  
Concerned Citizens for Green County  
Conservation (OK)  
Concerned Citizens of Freedom Township  
(OH)  
Concerned Citizens of Hidden Meadows  
(CA)  
Connecticut River Watershed Council –  
VT, NH, MA, CT (MA)  
Conservation Law Foundation (NH)  
Conservation Law Foundation (VT)  
Coosa River Basin Initiative (GA)  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Department of the Planet Earth  
Des Moines Water Works (IA)  
Earth Day Coalition (OH)  
Earth Save International  
ECO-Action (FL)  
ECO-Store (FL)  
Ecology Center (MI)  
Endangered Habitats League (CA)  
Environment Colorado  
Environmental Advocates of New York  
Environmental Defense  
Friends of Alum Creek and Tributaries  
(OH)  
Experience Appalachia! (OH)  
Friends of Arizona Rivers (AZ)  
Friends of Critters and the Salt Creek (IL)  
Friends of the Nanticoke River (MD)  
Generation Green (IL)  
GRACE Public Fund  
Grass Roots (NY)  
Greenbrier River Watershed Association  
(WV)  
Halifax River Audubon (FL)  
Hoosier Environmental Council (IN)  
Idaho Rivers United  
Illinois Student Environmental Network  
Indigenous Environmental Network (MN)  
Iowa Association of Water Agencies  
Iowa Environmental Council  
Izaak Walton League of America, Midwest  
office (MN)  
Izaak Walton League of America, Ohio  
division  
Keepers of the Duck Creek Watershed (OH)  
Kentucky Resources Council  
Kentucky Waterways Alliance, Inc.  
Kettle Range Conservation Group (WA)  
Lake Superior Greens (WI)  
Living Upstream (IL)  
Mankato Area Environmentalists (MN)

McCook Lake Chapter of the Izaak Walton  
League (SD)  
Michigan Environmental Council  
Michigan Nature Association  
Midwest Environmental Advocates (WI)  
Napa Greens (CA)  
National Environmental Trust  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Naturesource Communications (NH)  
Neponset River Watershed Association  
(MA)  
Neuse River Foundation (NC)  
New England Clean Water Action (MA)  
New Hampshire National Environmental  
Trust  
New Jersey Environmental Federation  
New Jersey Environmental Lobby  
North Shore Audubon Society (NY)  
Northeast Center for Social Issue Studies  
(VT)  
Northwest Environmental Advocates (OR)  
Northwest Environmental Defense Center  
(OR)  
Obed Watershed Association (TN)  
Ohio Environmental Council  
Ohio River Foundation (OH)  
Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition  
(WV)  
Oregon Environmental Council  
Pamlico-Tar River Foundation (NC)  
Park County Environmental Council (MT)  
Pennsylvanians for Environmental  
Protection  
Penobscot Bay Environmental Alliance  
(ME)  
PlanPutnam.org (NY)  
Preserve Wild Santee (CA)  
Protect Our Earth's Treasures (OH)  
Rahway River Association (NJ)  
Rio Grande Restoration (NM)  
Rivers Foundation of the Americas (OR)  
Rivers Unlimited (OH)  
San Diego BayKeeper (CA)  
San Juan Citizens Alliance (CO)  
Savannah Riverkeeper (GA)  
Save the Valley, Inc. (IN, KY)  
Seattle Chapter - Izaak Walton League of  
America (WA)  
Sierra Club  
South Carolina Coastal Conservation  
Southern Streams (MS)  
Southwest Environmental Center (NM)  
Stream Team 714 (MO)  
Surfrider Foundation - San Diego Chapter  
(CA)  
Sustain (IL)  
Tear of the Clouds LLC (NY)  
The Edison Wetlands Association (NJ)  
Tinkers Creek Land Conservancy (OH)  
Tri-County Conservation League, Inc. (CA)

***Endorsements for “The Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act of 2003” (cont.)***

U.S. Environmental Watch  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
United Anglers of California  
Upper Merrimack River Local Advisory  
Committee (NH)  
Virginia Forest Watch  
Waterkeeper Alliance  
Waukesha County Environmental Action  
League (WI)  
We The People (IL)  
West Virginia Environmental Council  
West Virginia Rivers Coalition  
Western Nebraska Resources Council  
Wyoming Outdoor Council

**OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:**

New Orleans Regional Bicycle Awareness  
Committee (LA)  
River Tales & UkeJackson.com (PA)  
Seavey Funds, Inc. (CA)  
Seavey Vineyards (CA)