

To: Rockowitz Zena; Sennes Derek
Subject: Written Testimony in Support of SB 785





Kookoolan Farms free-ranged, pasture-raised, organic-fed chickens; Kookoolan Farms 100% grassfed beef; Kookoolan Farms 100% grassfed lamb; Kookoolan Farms pasture-raised heirloom pork. All antibiotic-free since 2005.

I'm writing to express my support for SB 920. I am a full-time livestock producer in Yamhill, Oregon. Since 2005, **Kookoolan Farms** has raised a combination of hogs, chicken, sheep, and beef cattle – all without antibiotics. We enjoy an outstanding reputation for hormone-free, antibiotic-free, 100% grassfed beef and lamb, and free-ranged pasture-raised organic-fed chickens.

Kookoolan Farms is 100% direct-to-end consumer sales. Our customers drive to Yamhill from as far away as Bend and Seattle, mainly because they want to avoid meat that has been raised with antibiotics. More than 20 of our regular repeat customers are physicians at OHSU. My customers know that using antibiotics routinely to promote faster growth in livestock is an unnecessary risk to human health.

Large-scale industrial agriculture operations use antibiotics as a way to slightly improve the efficiency of producing meat in confinement and to compensate for the losses in productivity related to the constant stress their livestock experience from being raised in very high density in often-deplorable sanitation conditions. The problem is being made worse by the falling cleanliness standards of the large-scale processors, who are choosing to speed up their processing lines instead of making them safer, which results in a higher likelihood that a consumer will become infected by eating or handling the meat. The

regular use of low levels of antibiotics within a population of billions of animals creates a situation in which bacteria are certain to become resistant to those antibiotics, and in the unfortunate event that a person becomes infected with those bacteria, it can quickly become a life-threatening situation. Antibiotic-resistant superbugs are not a theoretical risk of the future: they are here, and people are dying: in September 2016, as widely reported in the national news, a woman ***died*** from a superbug infection that resisted ***all*** available antibiotics in the United States.

In 2013, Consumer Reports did a study of several national brands of chicken and found that more than half of the samples contained fecal matter. The study also found that half of the samples contained bacteria that were resistant to three or more antibiotics commonly used to treat infections in people. It is clear that the industry has been putting profits ahead of consumers' well-being for a long time and they cannot be trusted to do what's right for our health.

Fortunately, public awareness of this issue has grown to the point that we can begin to correct the situation and force the industry to behave more responsibly. McDonald's recently received so much public pressure that they agreed to switch to buying only chicken raised without antibiotics.

Routine use of antibiotics is not necessary for raising livestock. In 2000, the pork industry in Denmark ceased using antibiotics to promote growth and there was no decrease in production.

It's important for Oregon to pass a state measure for a number of reasons. Neither the current, nor the proposed, Federal regulations are adequate, as evidenced by the continued prevalence of antibiotic resistant bacteria in meat produced in larger-scale farms.

In Oregon we have many more family-scale farms than large-scale farms, and generally speaking, the family-scale farmers, like me, choose to be responsible with our antibiotic use, simply because we want to do the right thing, whereas the larger-scale farms seem to require laws to get them to be responsible with antibiotic use. We are not a tiny hobby farm: in 2016 we had just shy of \$500,000 in meat sales, and yet in twelve years of farming I have used antibiotics on a cow exactly once, for a serious leg injury, just as I would have done for my own leg with a similar injury. We have successfully raised thousands of animals without the need for low-level continuous antibiotics.

Thank you for accepting my written testimony; like most ***actual*** farmers (as opposed to corporate "farmers") today I'm home on the farm husbanding my livestock.

Chrissie Manion Zaerpoor (503) 730-7535

KOOKOOLAN FARMS

www.kookoolanfarms.com – please do take a look at the photos of our beautiful antibiotic-free animals!

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