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	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201		
	Subject	Council Bill 14-0194 r Informational Hearing – Nontherapeutic Use of Antibiotics in Livestock		

To: President and Members
of the City Council
c/o 409 City Hall

December 8, 2014

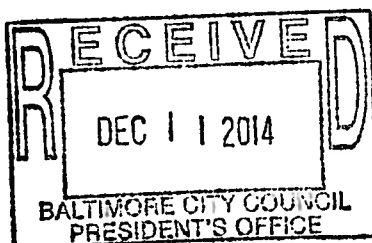
The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill 14-0194~~r~~ Informational Hearing – Nontherapeutic Use of Antibiotics in Livestock. The purpose of this bill is to request a statewide and national ban on nontherapeutic uses of antibiotics in livestock production; supporting the enactment of the Protection of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act (PAMTA)/Prevention of Antibiotic Resistance Act (PARA) to address this dangerous practice; and calling for a hearing to discuss ways to reduce and eliminate the nontherapeutic uses of antibiotics in livestock production.

According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, the nontherapeutic use of antibiotics in livestock production creates the perfect environment for antibiotic-resistant bacteria to multiply and thrive. This creates a direct threat to public health by making essential drugs unable to treat infections. By eliminating routine, non-therapeutic uses of antibiotics, the meat industry can reduce the potential for antibiotic resistance and ensure these important drugs remain effective for treating humans.

While overuse of antibiotics by humans is an important part of the problem, a crucial component of keeping antibiotics working is changing the way we raise meat. A March 2003 National Academy of Sciences report stated that “a decrease in antimicrobial use of human medicine alone will have little effect on the current situation of growing antibiotic resistance. Substantial efforts must be made to decrease inappropriate overuse in animals and agriculture as well.” Smolinski MS, Hamburg MA, Lederberg J, eds. 2003. Microbial Threats to Health: Emergence, Detection, and Response. (Washington DC, National Academies Press).

BCHD’s mission is to ensure a healthy Baltimore City by promoting and protecting the health of the residents of Baltimore. Therefore, BCHD supports this resolution.

cc: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor
Mary Beth Haller, Asst. Commissioner, Department of Health
Andrew R. Nicklas, Legislative Director, Department of Health



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