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Waterkeeper Alliance

MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Keep Antibiotics Working on the Food Safety Enhancement Act of 2009

We are very disappointed that the Food Safety Enhancement Act of 2009 (H.R. 2749), marked up in the House Energy and Commerce Committee today, does not address the growing problem of antibiotic resistant foodborne pathogens which is an inseparable part of the food safety crisis.

Foodborne bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics are on the rise in the United States, causing an increasing number of severe and life threatening illnesses. Of the 1.4 million *Salmonella* infections this year roughly 1 in 5 are drug-resistant, as are half of the 2.4 million *Campylobacter* infections.

The development of antibiotic resistant foodborne pathogens is linked to the routine overuse of antibiotics in animal agriculture. Legislation should respond to this crisis by directing the FDA to conduct safety reviews of the drugs used in livestock.

Keep Antibiotics Working (KAW) is a coalition of health, consumer, agricultural, environmental, humane, and other advocacy groups, with more than ten million members, dedicated to the preservation of antibiotics for use in human and animal medicine.

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