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November 24, 2021

Chris Kempczinski

McDonald's Corporation, CEO

Dear Mr. Kempczinski,

We write to you as representatives of multiple organizations with millions of members to express our ongoing concerns about the overuse of antibiotics in livestock production. We ask that McDonald's honor its December 2018 public commitment to eliminate the use of medically important antibiotics for routine prevention of disease in its beef supplies, and by the end of 2020, establish market-specific reduction targets for these antibiotics in its global beef and dairy beef supply chains. As far as we know, McDonald's is now nearly a year late in meeting this pledge.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the rise of bacteria resistant to antibiotics is one of our most pressing public health threats. Millions of Americans get sick each year from drug-resistant infections, and one study estimates that up to 160,000 die annually. Overusing antibiotics in any setting can spur resistance, but it's critical we work to reduce use in the livestock sector, where nearly two-thirds of medically important antibiotics sold in the U.S. go each year. The common practice of using these life-saving medicines to prevent disease and compensate for overcrowding and unsanitary living conditions on industrial farms is of particular concern.

McDonald's has been a leader on this issue since 2015, when the company committed to and then shortly succeeded in purchasing only chicken raised without medically important antibiotics for its US market. That was a major step forward for public health. The company continued that leadership with its 2018 announcement to restrict use and set reduction targets for medically important antibiotics across 85 percent of its global beef supply chain by the end of 2020. This policy also included a commitment to phase out routine use of medically important antibiotics for prevention of disease. These commitments

rightly were based on the 2017 World Health Organization "Guidelines on Use of Medically Important Antimicrobials in Food-Producing Animals" as clearly indicated in the 2018 announcement.

However, as far as we can determine, McDonald's missed its 2020 deadline for setting reduction targets, and has not publicly reported any progress toward phasing out the routine use of the drugs.

Our groups call on McDonald's to fulfill its previous commitments and continue to lead on this issue by:

- Following through on setting meaningful reduction targets for medically important antibiotics across 85 percent of your global beef supply chain. Aggressive reductions will be especially important for the U.S. market, where sales of medically important antibiotics for use on cattle continue to rise.
- Publicly reporting on progress regarding your commitment to prohibit routine use of medically important antibiotics for prevention of disease.
- Adopting a third-party, independent auditor with expertise in antibiotics to verify antibiotics use practices amongst your suppliers to ensure public confidence in your progress.

Increasingly, consumers are asking for meat raised without the routine use of antibiotics. According to a recent national poll, labels claiming that meat was raised without antibiotics were important to two-thirds of consumers surveyed.

As a leader in the fast food sector and the beef production industry, McDonald's is poised to lead the way in producing meat ethically and without the overuse of antibiotics. Fulfilling your commitment to reduce antibiotic use in beef will also set an important example for other fast food companies who have made similar commitments to do so, and help spark change.

We appreciate your attention to this pressing issue.

Respectfully,

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