



Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333

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Dear Dr. Nachman:

Thank you for your letter regarding my April 28, 2010, testimony before the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health. I appreciate you sharing your thoughts and summary of evidence related to some of the questions raised at the hearing.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) feels there is strong scientific evidence of a link between antibiotic use in food animals and antibiotic resistance in humans. There are multiple North American studies describing how:

- Use of antibiotics in animals results in resistant bacteria in food animals
- Resistant bacteria are present in the food supply and transmitted to humans
- Resistant bacteria result in adverse human health consequences (such as increased hospitalizations)

In addition, a strong body of evidence from Europe demonstrates that antibiotic use in animals is linked with antibiotic resistance in humans. Multiple studies looked at the effects of the Danish ban on non-therapeutic use of antibiotics in food animals. We have thoroughly reviewed these studies and have found them to be well-designed and rigorous, and to establish a clear link between antibiotic use in animals and antibiotic resistance in humans.

We appreciate your offer to provide technical expertise and will keep you and your colleagues in mind. I also will provide this response to Dr. Robert Lawrence who cosigned your letter.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H.
Director, CDC, and
Administrator, Agency for Toxic Substances
and Disease Registry