

**STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD**  
**Subcommittee on Health, Committee on Energy & Commerce**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**For the hearing, "Antibiotic Resistance and the Use of Antibiotics in Animal**  
**Agriculture"**

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, I am Jim Slama, President of Familyfarmed.org, an organization that assists small farmer access the food marketing and distribution system. I am writing to fully support the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act (PAMTA). For the past decade, FamilyFarmed.org has supported the development of local food systems. In this time, we have worked with many farmers who produce livestock, poultry, and dairy products and who do not use antibiotics for growth promotion.

Many of these farmers and ranchers are highly successful. They have rapidly growing businesses fueled in part by consumers eager to purchase naturally raised meat and dairy products. In recent months, the demand for grass-fed beef products has been very strong and some producers have been unable to keep up with the demand. And, companies like Chipotle, Whole Foods Market, Trader Joes, and others are furthering the market development for naturally raised meat and dairy products by purchasing them in high volumes.

Grass-fed livestock production is an environmentally friendly system that provides consumers with healthy, great tasting food. PAMTA will encourage even more producers to move into this niche and meet the demand for these products. Thanks for your interest in this topic.