January 13, 2014

Ron Foster, CEO
Foster Farms
1000 Davis Street
Livingston, CA 95334

Dear Mr. Foster,

On behalf of millions of members and advocates, our organizations are writing to ask for your leadership in demonstrating stewardship of antibiotics.

We understand that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has linked your chicken to the drug resistant Salmonella outbreak that has sickened hundreds of people and hospitalized more than one in three of those infected. According to the CDC, many of the Salmonella outbreak strains found in patients and in Foster Farms chicken were resistant to one or more commonly prescribed antibiotics. The spread of drug resistant bacteria throughout our communities and kitchens has threatened our health and contributed to the growing crisis of antibiotic resistance.

More than 80 percent of all antibiotics sales in the United States are purchased for raising livestock. When antibiotics are used repeatedly to speed animal growth or prevent disease in crowded, unsanitary feedlots or barns, some bacteria survive, become drug resistant and spread. Drug resistant bacteria can lead to longer illnesses, more hospitalizations, the use of drugs with greater side effects, and treatment failure. In its recent report "Antibiotic Resistance Threats," the CDC stated: "Up to half of antibiotic use in humans and much of antibiotic use in animals is unnecessary and inappropriate and makes everyone less safe."

Foster Farms can help regain its credibility by telling the public how its birds are raised and the specific steps the company is taking to prevent the spread of drug resistant bacteria. Antibiotic resistance was a significant feature of this outbreak, yet Foster Farms has not disclosed information about its antibiotic use or plans for preventing the proliferation of antibiotic resistant bacteria from Foster Farms products, waste streams and facilities. By demonstrating antibiotic stewardship, your company will also show your progress in promoting healthy flocks that don't need routine antibiotic use.

We request that Foster Farms:

1) Publish a detailed description of the antibiotics your company uses to raise chickens;
2) Commit to using antibiotics responsibly. Improved husbandry and living conditions, along with other good management practices, can reduce or eliminate the need for non-therapeutic use of antibiotics. Medically important antibiotics should only be used for treating sick animals or, in rare cases, to control disease outbreaks; they should not be used for routine disease prevention or growth promotion; and
3) Verify your progress through audits by an impartial third party.

Respectfully,

Laurie Beacham, Senior Director of Strategies and Campaigns, **American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)**

Pilar Schiavo, Special Projects Coordinator, **California Nurses Association/National Nurses Organizing Committee (CNA/NNOC), National Nurses United**

Emily Rusch, Executive Director, **California Public Interest Research Group**

Andrew Kimbrell, Executive Director, **Center for Food Safety**

Brent Newell, Legal Director, **Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment**

Webster Walker, Community Outreach Administrator, **Central Co-Op**

Miriam Gordon, California Director, **Clean Water Action**

Leah Garces, USA Director, **Compassion in World Farming**

Jan Whitefoot, President, **Concerned Citizens of the Yakama Reservation**

Jean Halloran, Director of Food Policy, **Consumers Union**

Aaron Gross, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, **Farm Forward**

Steven Roach, Public Health Program Director, **Food Animals Concerns Trust**

Ivan Maluski, Director, **Friends of Family Farmers**

Jean Mendoza, RN, BS, BSN, MSN, Executive Director, **Friends of Toppenish Creek**

David Wallinga, MD, Consultant & Founder/Director, **Healthy Food Action**

Matthew Prescott, Food Policy Director, **Humane Society of the United States**

Shefali Sharma, Senior Policy Analyst, **Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy**

Robert S. Lawrence, MD, Director, **Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future**

Leah Scull, Coalition Coordinator, **Keep Antibiotics Working**

Jonathan Kaplan, Director, Food and Agriculture Program, **NRDC**

Kelly Campbell, Executive Director, **Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility**

David Rosenfeld, Executive Director, **Oregon State Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG)**

Noah Gittell, Executive Director, **Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine**

Catherine Thomasso, MD, Executive Director, **Physicians for Social Responsibility**

Richard C. Honour, PhD, Executive Director, **The Precautionary Group**

Leslie Mikkelsen, Managing Director, **Prevention Institute**

Patty Martin, Project Director, **Safe Food and Fertilizer**

Lucia Sayre, Co-Executive Director, **San Francisco Bay Area Physicians for Social Responsibility**

Deb Self, Executive Director, **San Francisco BayKeeper**

Steve Heilig, Member and Healthcare Specialist, **San Francisco Medical Society**

Kendra Kimbirauskas, Chief Executive Officer, **Socially Responsible Agriculture Project**

Michaela Preskill, Advocate, **WashPIRG**