

A Greener World | Academy of Integrative Health & Medicine | Albert Einstein College of Medicine | AllergyKids Foundation
Alliance to Save Our Antibiotics | Antibiotic Resistance Action Center, GW Univ. Milken Institute School of Public Health
Arizona PIRG | Assoc. of Schools & Programs of Public Health | CA League of Conservation Voters | CA Church IMPACT | CA Project LEAN
CA Public Health Association – North | CalPIRG | Catholic Rural Life | Center for Biological Diversity | Center for Environmental Health
Center for Food Safety | Center for Foodborne Illness Research & Prevention | Center for Science in the Public Interest | Center on Race,
Poverty & the Environment | Clean Water Action | ConnPIRG | Consumers International | Consumers Union | CoPIRG | Dignity Health
FamilyFarmed | Farm Forward | Farm Sanctuary | Food and Water Watch | Food Animals Concern Trust | FoodBabe.com | Food Chain
Workers Alliance | Food Democracy Now! | Food Sleuth | Friends of the Earth | Global Animal Partnership | Green Chicago Restaurant Coalition
Health Action International | Health Care Without Harm | Illinois PIRG | Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy | Institute for a Sustainable Future
Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future | Keep Antibiotics Working | Kewaunee CARES | League of United Latin American Citizens
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Assoc. | Maryland PIRG | MASSPIRG | Michigan Antibiotics Resistance Reduction Coalition
MomsRising | MRSA Survivors Network | National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Assoc. | Natural Resources Defense Council
NOFA - MASS | NOFA - VT | NOFA - IC | NOFA - CT | NOFA NY | OSPiRG | Pesticide Action Network | Physicians for Social Responsibility
ReACT Europe | Roots of Change | San Francisco BayKeeper | San Francisco Medical Society | School Food Focus | Science & Environmental
Health Network | Slow Food California | Slow Food USA | Society of Infectious Disease Pharmacists | Southern CA Public Health Association
SummerTomato.com | The Deirdre Imus Environmental Health Center | U.S. Right to Know | Universities Allied for
Essential Medicine | Urban Oasis | U.S. Public Interest Research Group | WashPIRG | Western Nebraska Resources Council | WisPIRG

January 28, 2016

Mr. Greg Creed, Chief Executive Officer
Yum! Brands
5200 Commerce Crossings Dr.
Louisville, KY 40229

We write you as representatives of organizations with millions of members to express our concerns about the overuse of antibiotics in livestock production, and to ask that Yum! make a strong, definitive public commitment on antibiotic stewardship in its meat and poultry supply chains.

Your recent decision to eliminate the use of antibiotics “critically important” to human medicine in your chicken supply by the end of 2016 is a positive step forward, but does not constitute a meaningful antibiotics use policy. Because very few antibiotics designated as “critically important” are used by the poultry industry, your focus on this very limited set of drugs may create the false impression that Yum! is taking substantial action, even though the vast majority of medically important antibiotic use would likely not be affected.

As described below, best practices for antimicrobial stewardship policies include a commitment to eliminate the routine use (i.e., for growth promotion and disease prevention) of **all** medically important antibiotics across meat and poultry supply chains, as well as to verify these practices through a third-party verification program.

Our groups call on Yum! to commit to antibiotic stewardship by:

- 1** Acting now to end the routine use of medically-important antibiotics in the production of chicken sold in your restaurants, except as necessary to treat birds diagnosed with an illness.
- 2** Defining a time-bound commitment to phase out the routine use of medically-important antibiotics across all of the company’s meat supply chains. Antibiotics should be available to treat animals diagnosed with an illness.
- 3** Adopting third-party auditing of your antibiotics use policy and benchmarking results showing progress in meeting the goals described above.

Yum! and its restaurant chains, including Kentucky Fried Chicken, Taco Bell and Pizza Hut, can make a vital contribution to stemming antibiotic resistance by disallowing routine antibiotics use among your suppliers. As part of your commitment to safeguarding antibiotics, we also urge Yum! to encourage better management practices on farms. Reduced crowding, more hygienic conditions, improved diets, and longer weaning periods, among other changes, can improve animal welfare and minimize the need for prophylactic drugs on farms.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the rise of bacteria resistant to commonly relied-upon antibiotics is one of our most pressing public health threats. Each year in the US, two million people contract antibiotic-resistant infections and 23,000 die as a result. Due to worsening resistance, future organ transplants, cancer chemotherapy, dialysis, and other medical procedures that rely on effective antibiotics, are at risk. While overuse of antibiotics in human medicine is a major contributing factor, the nation's health experts agree that feeding low doses of antibiotics to animals that are not sick contributes to the rise of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Increasingly consumers are asking for meat raised without the routine use of antibiotics.

A meaningful commitment on antibiotics will allow Yum! to join the ranks of restaurant industry leaders on this issue, like Subway, McDonald's, Chick-fil-A, Panera, Chipotle, and many others that are responding to powerful consumer demand for meat and poultry raised without the routine use of these important human medicines.

With 70% of medically-important antibiotics in the US sold for livestock use, we can't fix the problem of antibiotic resistance unless the livestock sector and large meat buyers like Yum! Brands are part of the solution.

We appreciate your attention to our concerns.

Respectfully,

Andrew Gunther, Executive Director,
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