



POLICY & ACTION FROM CONSUMER REPORTS

September 21, 2015

Governor Jerry Brown  
State Capitol Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown,

Consumers Union, the policy and advocacy arm of Consumer Reports, applauds your leadership in meaningfully amending SB 27 (Hill) to address the overuse of antibiotics in meat production for disease prevention. The bill, currently on your desk, no longer allows for the routine use of antibiotics on healthy food animals for the prevention of disease. This new law should go a long way in reducing the amount of antibiotics used in meat production in California, and should lessen the number of antibiotic-resistant superbugs contributing to the ineffectiveness of human medicines.

Consumers Union supports the use of antibiotics only to treat sick animals, not to prevent disease in healthy animals. While this bill would allow for a veterinarian to prescribe antibiotics for a healthy flock or herd if a risk of disease or infection is imminent, that use must be limited, not routine. We urge careful administration and oversight of the implementation of this law to ensure that antibiotics are not overused for disease risk.

Because this bill would help to lead FDA and other states in mandating policies around the overuse of antibiotics in meat production, we urge you to sign SB 27 into law.

Thank you, again, for your leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elisa Odabashian".

Elisa Odabashian, Director  
West Coast Office  
Consumers Union