Template for People of Faith Writing to Maryland State Legislators to urge support of the Keep Antibiotics Effective Act

*NOTE: Personal letters, personal calls, and letters that have been handwritten or hand signed and mailed gain the attention of state elected officials. They notice when you put in the effort to contact them personally. Please customize the text below to make it your own.*

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The Honorable (Your State Delegate or Senator, visit [http://mdelect.net/](http://mdelect.net/%20) if not sure who that is)

(delegates) House Office Building, 6 Bladen St, Annapolis, MD 21401-1912

(senators) Senate Office buildings, 11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Re: Senate Bill 422 (House Bill number pending) – Keep Antibiotics Effective Act

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_: OR Dear Delegate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

I am writing to you to express my strong support of the Keep Antibiotics Effective Act, SB 422, which relates to restrictions on the use of non-therapeutic antibiotics in agriculture.

I have grave concerns with the practice many large farming operations routinely utilize: administering small doses of antibiotics to their livestock even when not necessitated by disease. Antibiotics promote rapid growth in animals and prevent diseases caused by cramped and unsanitary living conditions that the animals endure. Indiscriminate use of antibiotics actually kills off weak bacteria and develops antibiotic resistant super bugs. Raising animals in extremely crowded conditions is inhumane and immoral. The use of antibiotics perpetuates this inhumane treatment, often leads to pollution of land and water, and risks human health at the same time.

Pope Francis reminded us in his encyclical Laudato Si’, “All of us are linked by unseen bonds and together form a kind of universal family, a sublime communion which fills us with a sacred, affectionate and humble respect.” (89) I feel compelled to remind you, my elected representative, that somewhere along the way, society has lost sight of this sublime communion. We have lost the sacred respect that is the very fabric of a just and moral society.

**I support this bill because it is the beginning of a reversal of this perverse manipulation of God’s creation for human appetites.** Some companies are already choosing a positive path forward, proving that sustainable agriculture and profit margins are not mutually exclusive. Perdue poultry farms eliminated the use routine antibiotics and instead use oregano oil to maintain healthy livestock.

I ask that all Maryland farmers be held to a standard that is moral, safe, and promotes a sustainable future. Please support SB 422 and demand that famers no longer be allowed to threaten the fragile web of life we all depend on by indiscriminately administering antibiotics solely to benefit the bottom line.

Sincerely,

Name and Address

"But now ask the beasts, and let them teach you;

And the birds of the heavens, and let them tell you.” Job 12:7