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March 4, 2015

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Keep Antibiotics Working Applauds McDonald's New Antibiotics Policy on Poultry

Members of coalition have been in dialogue with the company for over a decade

CHICAGO -- Today, the McDonald's corporation [announced](#) that it will considerably strengthen its policy on antibiotics in its US restaurants by phasing out chicken raised with medically important antibiotics within the next 2 years. This represents a major commitment by the company to reducing the overuse of antibiotics in meat, which contributes to the growing public health threat of deadly superbugs. Keep Antibiotics Working steering committee members have been in close dialogue with McDonald's for over a decade and had urged that forward progress could be made most quickly on chicken.

Steven Roach, senior analyst for the coalition, issued the following statement in response:

"Keep Antibiotics Working applauds McDonald's for taking this major step to meet its customers demand for meat from animals raised without medically important antibiotics. Our coalition has been in conversation with McDonald's since before 2003 when it first announced a policy on antibiotic use for its meat suppliers. While we know that change won't happen overnight, we're committed to working with the company as it moves forward with its implementation plan.

Antibiotic resistance is an urgent public health threat and the fast food industry has an important role to play in driving change, especially given the inability of Congress to address pressing problems and the weak response from the regulatory agencies. We hope McDonald's new policy will inspire other companies to make similar changes to their meat supply -- to the benefit of the public good, and their corporate bottom line."

If you'd like to connect with Steven Roach, David Wallinga or other members of the Keep Antibiotics Working Coalition for comment, please contact Katie Andriulli at kandriulli@mrss.com or (917) 438-4605.

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Keep Antibiotics Working (KAW) is a coalition of health, consumer, agricultural, environmental, humane, and other advocacy groups with more than 11 million supporters. Learn more at www.keepantibioticsworking.com.