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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
July 10, 2008

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**Keep Antibiotics Working Blasts the House for Failing to Protect America's
Public Health**

*Health Subcommittee Fails to Address Antibiotic Resistance Crisis, Ignores Calls
to Include Public Health Provisions in ADUFA*

Washington, D.C. – Today, Keep Antibiotics Working, a national coalition of consumer, environmental, science and humane organizations, denounced the failure of the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee to include substantial public health protections in the mark-up of the Animal Drug User Fee Act (ADUFA) and the Animal Generic Drug Use Fee Act.

At issue, are the so-called “clean” bills, which will establish two programs for drug approvals at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) funded by fees from the drug companies. The committee was urged to take steps to redress the imbalance the fee-driven FDA funding creates, by including provisions in ADUFA that make public health a priority. The most urgent public health priority is the eroding efficacy of drugs due to the overuse of antibiotics in animal operations. For example, ADUFA could have created a system to review those prior approvals and get the drugs that represent a threat to public safety off the market.

Instead, the House Subcommittee decided to reject the proposed public health provisions, ensuring that ADUFA will meet the needs of animal industry and that the increased human suffering and rising health costs caused by antibiotic resistance will continue.

While we agree that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) needs more generous and reliable financing to do its job in an increasingly complex world, this is no way to accomplish it. User fees set up a scheme where the Agency becomes dependent for its lifeblood on the very industries it regulates – a dangerous way to get funding.

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