



July 16, 2012

Mr. Dan Bane
CEO
Trader Joe's

Dear Mr. Bane:

The Animal Agriculture Alliance has become aware that Trader Joe's is the latest target of a coalition of extreme activist groups promoting misconceptions about antibiotic use on farms. I am writing on behalf of America's more than two million farmers and ranchers, and others involved in the food system, to provide you with more information about the safety of America's meat supply and the true motives of activists.

The Alliance joined 15 other agricultural organizations in sending a letter to Congress in response to the June Consumers Union report that inaccurately claimed that food animals receive 80 percent of the antibiotics used in the United States. In reality, animal health products are a judiciously used tool that farmers can use to ensure animal well-being and food safety. Fully 40 percent of antibiotics used to treat animals are compounds not used in human medicine. FDA has initiated a process ensuring that all medically-important antibiotics will be administered under the supervision of a veterinarian and only for therapeutic purposes.

Extreme activist campaigns seek to eliminate consumer choice, and animal agriculture, by imposing increased costs on the farmer and consumer. The Alliance supports the responsible use of antibiotics by farmers and ranchers in order to maintain the health of their animals and to continue to provide retailers like Trader Joe's with high-quality products. I strongly encourage you to stand with your farmer suppliers and learn more about the role that antibiotics and other animal health products play in producing a safe food supply.

The Alliance, a national 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is a broad-based coalition of individual farmers, ranchers, producer organizations, suppliers, packer-processors, private industry, scientists, veterinarians and retailers. To learn more about the Alliance or about the techniques used by activist groups to pressure retailers, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kay Johnson Smith
President and CEO