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The Honorable Earl Blumenauer  
1111 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 19, 2015

**RE: Veterinary Support for H.R. 746, The Animal Welfare in  
Agricultural Research Endeavors (AWARE) Act**

Dear Representative Blumenauer,

I am writing on behalf of the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association (HSVMA), a national association representing 7,000 veterinary professionals, to thank you for sponsoring the Animal Welfare in Agricultural Research Endeavors (AWARE) Act. HSVMA wholeheartedly supports this much-needed reform to protect farm animals used in research at federal facilities. This legislation (H.R. 746) would ensure that these animals are no longer subject to unnecessary and cruel experiments, and that they receive the basic care required under the Animal Welfare Act.

As you know, a recent *New York Times* investigation revealed the horrific treatment of farm animals used for research at a federal facility in Nebraska. The U.S. Meat Animal Research Center, which has received nearly \$200 million in federal funding since 2006, was found to have allowed at least 6,500 animals to die from starvation and to have conducted inhumane research on pigs, cows and other farm animals.

Some of the more egregious examples of the brutal treatment of the animals included putting pigs in steam chambers until some of them perished, leaving lambs abandoned by their overtaxed mothers in pastures to die, breeding calves with deformities, and allowing untrained, unsupervised staff to perform experimental surgery.

As veterinary professionals with expertise in issues pertaining to animal health and welfare, we find the brutal treatment that these animals endured unacceptable. As the agency entrusted with the enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act, the USDA should be a leader in animal welfare oversight at all federal research facilities rather than allowing such inhumane treatment to occur.

The AWARE Act takes the first steps to address this problem by removing the exemption for farm animals at federal facilities “used

or intended for use for improving animal nutrition, breeding, management, or production efficiency, or for improving the quality of food or fiber” from basic protections under the Animal Welfare Act.

Thank you again for sponsoring this important animal welfare legislation that will ensure that agricultural research conducted at federal facilities complies with basic welfare standards. The veterinary profession, and the public, expects this standard of humane care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry N. Kellogg VMD". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light yellow rectangular background.

Barry Kellogg, VMD  
HSVMA Senior Veterinary Advisor