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June 9, 2015

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama,

Thank you for your service to our Country. Your poise and intelligence are especially valuable in unsettled times like these. The complexity of today's challenges and the seriousness of their consequences require those skills, along with collaborative, integrated, rational approaches. That's especially crucial for matters involving human, animal, and environmental health, exemplified by the concept of One Health. I am writing to endorse the framework/platforms advocated by a coalition of senators, led by Al Franken (in their letter to you, dated February 12), and by the American Veterinary Medical Association (in a letter dated March 12), the American Public Health Association (in its letter of May 21), and the One Health Commission and One Health Initiative Team (in their letter, dated June 3).

My individual message may not carry the authority or influence of those respected organizations, but the objectives are urgent enough that I want to add my voice to their advocacy. I have been a member of the advisory board for the One Health Initiative since 2010, but am a bit of an outlier in that organization, comprised mostly of physicians, veterinarians, public health officials, academic institutions, and government agencies. My background is in nursing, environmental science, and veterinary business ownership, but as a former mayor, president of the Association of Idaho Cities, and past board director for the National League of Cities (NLC), I am also keenly interested in policy. In 2011, I drafted and proposed a One Health Resolution (#2012-17, enclosed), which was subsequently adopted by the NLC, and in 2013, was integrated into policies that address health-focused local food systems, zoonoses, and pandemics, and encourage Congress and the Administration to "enable an interagency partnership among the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and U.S. Department of Agriculture to protect and improve human, animal, and environmental health as an integrated system."

While the recent letter to you from the One Health Commission and One Health Initiative Team supports state, national, and international intervention, as a former local elected official, I believe that action at the grassroots level is vital too. However a One Health framework is configured, it is important that resources are made available to local levels of government, to facilitate regulatory enforcement, sustainability incentives, more efficient communication, and collaboration related to health, safety, food production, climate adaptation, and job creation in fields like renewable energy technology, water purification, waste reduction, integrative healthcare, et cetera.

Incentives like federally-supported scholarships and conferences for One Health credentialing; routine integration of the concept in the earliest stages of education; tax credits for food animal production that is humane, resource-efficient, and not dependent on overuse of antibiotics or other agricultural chemicals; more competitive funding opportunities for brownfields clean-up, preparedness for weather extremes, binding cooperation among multi-jurisdictional partners to manage shared water supplies within watersheds; and expert inter-agency training programs about preventing and curtailing disease transmission could help local governments stretch limited dollars, while gaining credibility for One Health messaging, and earning citizen buy-in for the effort.

The well-being of our Nation and our species will depend on embracing the concept of One Health and integrating it into our laws, social structure, economic systems, international relations, educational programs, agricultural practices, and personal values. It's a heady goal, but one that is already beginning to gain traction in some medical and veterinary schools, public health organizations, environmental science programs, and federal agencies. Supportive governmental policies, programs, and funding will enhance opportunities for success, and speed its momentum.

Mr. President, please lend your support to One Health. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nancy Chaney