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March 12, 2015

The President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing on behalf of the American Veterinary Medical Association, one of the oldest and largest veterinary medical organizations in the world. Our more than 86,500 member veterinarians are engaged globally in a variety of activities dedicated to the art and science of veterinary medicine. We agree with the sentiments expressed to you by several senators in a Feb. 12, 2015, letter advocating for a multidisciplinary, multisectoral approach in addressing current and future zoonotic diseases. We believe that such a "One Health" approach is essential for the practical and effective prevention and control of these often critically important diseases.

As the human population continues to increase and expand across the world, the interconnection of people, animals, and our environment becomes ever more significant and impactful. Our role as veterinarians is not only to keep animals healthy, but also to work hand-in-hand with local, national, and global public health and environmental experts. Such interaction enables us to ask the right questions and to conduct the most appropriate research, so that together, we can most successfully advance the science and technology on this vital issue. By increasing the awareness, knowledge, and understanding of the interdependency of the health of humans and animals, and the environment, our nation's leaders can begin to take proactive steps to better protect Americans from zoonotic diseases and other biological threats, support our agricultural economy, and preserve the environment for generations to come.

We look forward to continuing to provide scientific expertise in this area in the future and learning more about the senators' recommendations regarding a National One Health Framework and a United Nations Inter-Agency One Health Framework. For questions or additional information regarding the AVMA's comments, please feel free to contact Dr. Mark Lutschaunig, AVMA governmental relations director, at [MLutschaunig@avma.org](mailto:MLutschaunig@avma.org) or 202-289-3205.

Sincerely,

Theodore Cohn, DVM  
AVMA President