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## SUPPORT FOR ANTIBIOTIC-FREE MEAT PROPOSAL AT MCDONALD'S ANNUAL MEETING UNDERSCORES INVESTOR CONCERNS

In Recognition of Risks to Public Health and Brand Image, Over 22% of Shareholders Agree the Fast-Food Chain Should Revise its Antibiotics Policy to Cover Beef and Pork

**NEW YORK, NY, THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2016** – Today McDonald's shareholders voted in strong numbers in support of a shareholder-sponsored resolution calling for the company to revise its policies to prohibit the sourcing of beef and pork that has been routinely treated with antibiotics.

The proposal was sponsored by a group of investor members of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility who advocate against the routine use of antibiotics in animal agriculture arguing that this has greatly contributed to antibiotic-resistance in humans and the subsequent rise of dangerous "superbugs". When the company announced a policy last year that it would source only chicken treated with antibiotics for therapeutic reasons — not prophylactically as is often the case for animals raised in "factory farm" conditions — the investors attempted to convince the company that the policy should be applied to all its meat products. When McDonald's declined, they filed a shareholder resolution.

Said Sr. Susan Mika of the Congregation of Benedictine Sisters of Boerne, TX, and lead filer of the proposal, "We lift up today's strong support for this proposal and urge McDonald's to take immediate action - sooner rather than later - to deal with this revision of its policies. Many of the other restaurant chains have already made significant changes. The efficacy of antibiotics used in human health must be safeguarded; this is recognized by public health advocates, consumers and, today, the investment community."

Said Austin Wilson of As You Sow, one of the leaders of the shareholder engagement, "This is a huge result: nearly 1-in-4 McDonald's shareholders rejected management's status quo in favor of bolder action. We estimate that's \$20 billion of shares. We hope that McDonald's will respond quickly with commitments to end reckless antibiotic use, as this will restore shareholder and public confidence in the company."

Said Nadira Narine, Program Director at the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, "Investors' concerns about the risks related to antibiotic use in our food are clearly demonstrated in today's vote. Not only does the company face potential regulatory and reputational risks, but it is missing a potential market opportunity given the increasing demand for meat produced without routine use of antibiotics. We urge McDonald's to prioritize human health and make time-bound commitments on its pork and beef supply globally. We look forward to engaging McDonald's further to address this important issue and drive up the standards of current practice for this sector."

## About the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR)

Celebrating its 45th year, ICCR is the pioneer coalition of shareholder advocates who view the management of their investments as a catalyst for change. Its 300 member organizations comprise faith communities, socially responsible asset managers, unions, pensions, NGOs and academic institutions representing combined assets of over \$100 billion with a record of corporate engagement that has demonstrated influence on corporate policies that further justice and sustainability. ICCR members engage hundreds of corporations annually in an effort to promote greater corporate accountability on questions such as climate change, corporate water stewardship, sustainable food production, human trafficking and slavery in global supply chains and increased access to both financial and health care services for communities in need. www.iccr.org