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To Whom It may Concern,

This is a short note to introduce Grand Meadows.

While myself and my team at Colorado State University still feels that the definitive research establishing clinical efficacy of oral glycosaminoglycans is lacking, there is clearly a substantial demand for these types of products.

This demand has been satisfied with a bewildering array of products, now numbering over 350 in the US market alone. As this marketplace has been, until recently, largely unregulated, it has fostered an environment where many products are manufactured under dubious standards and often misrepresented to consumers.

Grand Meadows and its company President, Nick Hartog, have been leading industry participants in bringing levels of accountability and manufacturing standards to an industry that was woefully in need of an improved image. Nick was one of the founding members and sits on the Board of the NASC (National Animal Supplement Council www.nasc.cc) and has been instrumental in establishing many of the initiatives that have earned the NASC the respect and cooperation of the FDA-CVM (Center for Veterinary Medicine). In the 17 years that the NASC has been in place they have introduced a series of strict requirements for member companies to incorporate into their operations. Every member company is subjected to a bi-annual audit to ensure compliance and they need to pass that audit in order to be able to display the NASC Seal on their packaging and marketing materials. While there are a great number of different requirements to pass the audit some of the more important elements are as follows: Monthly adverse event reporting, labels that follow a strict template depending on the intended use of the product, random testing of member products to see if they match label claim and strict enforcement procedures in the event they fail. Raw material testing and finished product testing to name a few. The NASC has truly had a profound impact on the safety, transparency and legitimacy of the animal health supplement industry.

While I emphatically do not endorse any of the Grand Meadows products I do believe that this company represents the best example of how to be a responsible industry participant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Wayne McIlwraith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "C. Wayne" being more legible than the last name "McIlwraith".

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CWM: psv