

March 26, 2007

Dr. Graham Spanier
President
Penn State University
Old Main #201
University Park, PA 16802

Dear Dr. Spanier:

I'm sure you're aware Congress & President Lincoln established our land-grant universities (LGUs) to serve the public interest by helping individual farmers, not to create and align themselves with huge private agribusiness interests violating the public interest. That's why Responsible Policies for Animals (RPA) sent you or your predecessor and friends at our other "1862" LGUs four previous letters - three accompanied by RPA factsheets, the other by a book and a statement from the author - irrefutably insisting "animal science" must go.

I will be glad to receive any update on the status of this effort at Penn State University. Meanwhile, because *plants-only food production becomes more urgent every day*, I hope you will read the pages I am enclosing, explained below. I know you are extremely busy, but these 6½ pages are a very informative and quick read. Also please consider the following.

Just 47 days before the 9/11 attacks, in a public comment on federal animal-factory waste regulations, I pointed out that, if people from other countries did what the U.S. flesh, milk, egg & feed-crop industries do to U.S. waters, it would be considered biological warfare. The 9/11 attacks put our attention on outside enemies. But the fact remains *far more harm comes from the flesh, milk, egg & feed-crop industries -- and therefore from our LGUs' "animal science" programs*.

Immeasurable funding, energy & talent are going into programs that on paper give the appearance of protecting the American people. Meanwhile, real suffering & death are perpetuated by "animal science": animals slaughtered and bred for short, miserable lives, people sickened by flesh, milk & eggs, free-living animals destroyed to protect "food animals" and feed crops, people driven off cropland for ecologically destructive grazing and feed-crop production, and more. Soil & water contamination and depletion from feed-crop production, contamination from animal facilities, ocean dead zones: **Who will guard against food-production atrocities if not our LGUs?**

As serious as all of that is, it doesn't even touch on the flesh, milk, egg & feed-crop industries' contributions to global climate change, species extinctions, and natural-ecosystem suppression.

Rationalized, avoided, and denied, these "elephants in the room" are among our society's biggest threats. *We cannot afford to have our institutions of higher learning turn their backs and pretend not to know "animal science" is a major problem. Dealing with "animal science" must not take a back seat to alumni relations, career building - or the popular interest in misguided eating habits.*

Since the earlier mailings to Penn State and our other LGUs, RPA has published articles on the "animal science" problem in LGU newspapers & other publications; given presentations to health-care, business and other groups; hung a banner, handed out leaflets & spoken with attendees & passersby at the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges' annual meeting in Washington, D.C.; informed via website, newsletter & correspondence - and has twice run the enclosed advertisement in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

The enclosed 6½ pages I am asking you to read are the text of the webpage to which the Chronicle ad directs readers. The page has received hundreds of visits from administrators, trustees, faculty, and other Chronicle readers. As you can see, it indisputably shows we must solve the "animal science" problem. *Our institutions cannot simultaneously serve the flesh, milk, egg & feed-crop industries and the public interest.* I hope this and other information RPA is glad to provide will assist you in taking the steps necessary to phase out "animal science" quickly at the University.

Is there any possible basis for considering it responsible for Penn State to perpetuate "animal science" when doing so causes so much harm, goes against so much established knowledge, imposes destructive values, beliefs, and food choices on our country and the rest of the world, and violates our LGUs' basic mandate and basic education principles?

I realize this problem cannot be solved overnight, but please tell me what Penn State University is doing to help solve it or explain why Penn State is not helping. I will appreciate your attention to this crucial matter and hope you will reply at your first opportunity. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Cantor
Executive Director
Responsible Policies for Animals, Inc.

P.S. RPA is a 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit organization with no salaried staff or directors. The organization serves the public interest by explaining how responsible policies for animals will benefit human beings and ecosystems as well. When responsible policies are established, RPA will work to ensure their enforcement or cease to exist in its present form; it does not seek to accumulate great wealth or aggrandize itself at public expense. We believe LGUs should work with RPA and not with big-agribusiness interests.

Enclosures