

August 24, 2011

Dr. Linda P.B. Katehi
Chancellor
University of California, Davis
Fifth Floor, Mrak Hall
Davis, CA 95616

Dear Dr. Katehi:

This letter and the enclosed reference list and DVD *Eating: It's The Biggest Cause of Disease, Disabilities and Death in the U.S. Today* mark eight years that Responsible Policies for Animals (RPA) has asked you and other land-grant-university (LGU) chief executives to eliminate "animal science" programs serving meat, dairy, fish, egg, and their allied industries. A university cannot serve those industries and also serve human beings, nonhuman animals, the natural world, or the academy's intellectual integrity.

Some LGU replies to RPA and its members these past eight years treat our letters as accusations of cruelty to animals. Indefensible as cruelty is, merely avoiding cruelty is much too low a standard for the treatment of animals; all deserve to lead fulfilling lives according to their nature. The problem we seek to address is not cruelty but humans' use of other animals. We do not seek to ensure that our LGUs "adhere to all pertinent laws and regulations" but that they will serve the interests of human beings, other animals, and all life by eliminating "animal science."

Other animals did not evolve to serve humans - breeding, dominating, and using them is inherently unjust and inhumane. Treating other animals as commodities, pets, enemies, pests, instrumentalities, property, and slaves is a root cause of human disease, violence, war, genocide, and oppression. The *Eating* video and sources in the enclosed list make this abundantly clear.

The University of California and our other LGUs lag far behind current knowledge - at terrible cost to all. Devastating consequences of animal use were known long before RPA launched its 10,000 Years Is Enough campaign in 2003 to end "animal science." Calamities linked to "animal science" have worsened since:

The number of nonhuman animals subjected to misery, indignity, injustice, early death, and unfulfilling human-dominated lives soars, including those killed to protect "livestock" and feed.

People continue to suffer and die by the millions from diseases linked to eating from animals, living with nonhuman animals, and clearing land for grazing and feed crops.

Humans' using animals for food generates an estimated 51 percent of global-warming gases. Global-warming impacts - floods, droughts, famines, storms, wars, and others - continue to worsen. Other biodisruption from animal use is well known and is worsening: forest and prairie destruction, pollution and loss of fresh water and topsoil, vast ocean dead zones, species extinctions, and more.

LGU "animal science" programs promote false beliefs - carnist ideology - including notions that humans evolved as omnivores and hunter-gatherers; that humans are natural predators at the "top" of a natural "food chain"; that humans need to eat from animals to obtain enough protein; that a

Dr. Linda P.B. Katehi
August 24, 2011
Page Two

supernatural power gave other animals to humans; and that nonhuman animals are less inherently valuable than humans, existing for humans to use. The facts: Humans evolved as herbivores; hunter-gatherer culture began long after our species did; humans evolved as prey, not as predators; eating from animals afflicts the human body with *too much* protein; the supernatural rationalization for oppressing nonhuman animals was devised thousands of years after humans started using others; and far from evolving as instrumentalities of humans, animals exploited by "animal science" share most human traits and most of our species' DNA, their species having existed longer than humans.

Sanctioned and promoted by our LGUs and highly visible on campus, "animal science" ideology influences instructors, students, alumni, and others regardless of whether they study "animal science." University equals authority in the LGU community and the public mind.

Carnist ideology is false even though many scientists embrace it. Science training does not eliminate unfounded beliefs acquired early in life, so trained scientists believe many things that are untrue or unverifiable. Conflict of interest – due to funding from corporations, industry associations, and government agencies dominated by industry, and personal financial, career, and status factors – makes skepticism about "animal science" all but impossible for those involved. So you must act decisively to bring the University of California into line with reality. "Animal science" is not the science of animals, Dr. Katehi; zoology is the science of animals. "Animal science" is animal exploitation, begun thousands of years ago, long before the far-reaching, destructive impacts could be known.

A just society does not abandon people due to moral and intellectual progress. We must work together to eliminate "animal science" based on knowledge and morality, not blame or rancor. The U.S. Department of Labor *Occupational Outlook Handbook* indicates that "animal science" personnel should be able to move to occupations that do not exploit and oppress nonhuman animals.

I hope you will assess the matter independently, present it to the University of California's governing body, and reply to this letter substantively. Human beings, nonhuman animals, and the natural world are too important to leave to profit, careerism, and public relations.

Thank you for your consideration, and do not hesitate to let me know of any questions you might have or any additional information or assistance I may provide.

Sincerely,

David Cantor
Executive Director
Responsible Policies for Animals, Inc.

Enclosures