

November 12, 2015

Dr. Joe DiPietro
President
University of Tennessee Knoxville
800 Andy Holt Tower
Knoxville, TN 37996

Dear Dr. Di. Pietro:

It alarms the conscience that the University of Tennessee Knoxville (UTK) and our other land-grant universities (LGUs) continue to ruthlessly reject a simple, feasible way to reduce human disease, slow human-caused global heating and our species' contamination of the natural world, and mitigate civilization's animal-abuse policy, which causes suffering, death, and extinction on an unimaginable scale.

For over a decade, Responsible Policies for Animals (RPA) has urged presidents, chancellors, trustees, and others at UTK and our other LGUs to stop providing billions of dollars' worth of training, propaganda, research, sales, public relations, and lobbying to the meat, dairy, fish, and egg industries. Depending on your tenure in your current position, you are more or less familiar with RPA's endeavor to eliminate "animal science," far and away the worst case of university malfeasance.

Most people, including scientists, teachers, physicians, and veterinarians, wrongly believe human beings omnivores, *naturally* eating from animals. If that were true, teaching people to breed, raise, exploit, and kill nonhuman animals for food in the least inhumane ways could be justified. Since in fact human beings are natural *herbivores* with no biological need of direct contact with other animals, and since using animals *harms* them, all that human beings do with them constitutes *abuse*. So "animal science" is a powerful engine of animal abuse within and beyond our LGUs – no matter how "humane" any particular form of abuse.

Misguidedly persisting in obtaining protein from nonhuman animals, humans acquire their most lethal infectious and non-communicable diseases, as well as nearly all food poisoning, needlessly. "Animal science" not only promotes the industries that cause human beings and other animals the most suffering; it undermines universities' role in seeking the truth about food, health, and ecology, preventing sound policy in life-and-death matters.

The Department of Labor indicates that "animal science" instructors qualify for many other jobs; UTK and our other LGUs can place them in other positions or assist them in finding employment outside of the academy. Universities should not train students for careers in animal abuse. "Animal science" instructors and students will benefit from directing their knowledge and talents to beneficial pursuits rather than continue enduring moral injury from abusing animals.

Thousands upon thousands of Americans in our LGU communities – not only students who take "pork science," "dairy science," "aquaculture," and other "animal science" courses – internalize, from the continued existence of "animal science," false and harmful beliefs making meat, dairy, fish, and eggs seem legitimate industries. One logically wonders, *Why would my university, my alma mater, my children's university, my parents' university, serve and promote the meat, dairy, fish, and egg industries if the industries were harmful to human beings, other animals, and Earth's ecosystems and biosphere?* Our LGUs only answer with public-relations tactics – a lack of intellectual integrity in urgent need of correcting.

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If anyone could refute RPA's case against "animal science," *surely thousands of scientists and scholars in relevant fields at our LGUs could.* But no instructor, veterinarian, or executive at any LGU who has replied to RPA has been able to refute, with facts, any assertion in any of the hundreds of letters, factsheets, books, videos, and articles RPA has provided in its effort to eliminate "animal science."

I am enclosing a statement-by-statement summary of the factual basis for eliminating "animal science," the need to do so as quickly as possible, and the injustice of failing to do so. Each assertion in the enclosed paper, *The Case Against "Animal Science" Documented*, is followed by a list of published sources supporting it. Absent complete factual refutation of this paper, I am sure you will agree that UTK and our other LGUs should immediately start phasing out "animal science."

Institutions that pioneer the needed change for the common good will gain renown despite some initial special-interest backlash. I am sure many UTK instructors will confirm that, since ending "animal science" will reduce global heating, fecal pollution, and our species' gross over-use of land and fresh water; lethal infectious and non-communicable diseases in human beings; enslavement, eugenics, sexual and reproductive abuse, destruction of families, mutilations, and other atrocities widely perpetrated on nonhuman animals; and moral injury inflicted on human beings who abuse animals for career and profit. Ending "animal science" is a wonderful opportunity for UTK and our other LGUs to stop teaching moral blindness and restore our species' innate, humane morality.

For the sake of the UTK community, human beings everywhere, and the future of the living world, do not underestimate the importance of ending "animal science." Let me know if I can assist you in any way. I am dedicating a significant amount of my work on behalf of RPA and all of Earth's animals, including human beings, to this endeavor. I can travel to meetings, write for periodicals, and otherwise assist all who wish to cooperate in this effort. Kindly let me know your response at your first opportunity, and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Cantor
Executive Director
Responsible Policies for Animals

Enclosure

Cc: The Honorable Bill Haslam, Governor of Tennessee