

June 9, 2006

TO: **ALL MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

FROM: **ANIMAL ENTERPRISE PROTECTION ADVOCATES**

RE: **SUPPORT FOR ANTI-DOMESTIC TERRORISM LEGISLATION**

The groups signing this letter represent America's farmers, ranchers and the industries which serve them. In addition, the list of supporters includes several organizations which contribute to maintaining the highest standards of wellbeing for animals legally and ethically used in research, education, exhibition, entertainment, clothing, recreational other animal enterprises/industries. Also, supporting this letter are groups – state, regional and national – deeply concerned about eco-terrorist attacks on legal land use.

We write to urge your strong support for **HR4239** by Rep. Tom Petri (R, WI), legislation to amend the federal criminal code to provide law enforcement much-needed additional authority to protect U.S. food producers, processors, retailers and scientists from escalating violence by radical animal rightists in the name of animal "protection."

The FBI and other federal law enforcement agencies officially classify animal rights and eco extremism as this nation's single greatest domestic terrorist threat. In the last decade, the number of illegal actions has increased 1,000%, with targets including animal agriculture, the food processing and retailing industries, biomedical/biotechnology researchers and other animal users. The FBI estimates over 1,200 animal extremist incidents in the past 15 years have cost the economy \$200 million.

These attacks include death threats, vandalism, arson and bombings. These groups – the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) and the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) -- aggressively attack and try to intimidate individuals and companies, and have now begun targeting third-parties. These third parties are individuals related to a targeted entity, or companies doing business with a targeted entity. "Tertiary" victims include family members, neighbors, friends, churches, co-workers, stockholders and companies providing goods and services to a targeted entity.

**HR4239** will close gaps in the law hampering federal authorities who investigate, arrest and prosecute radical animal activists. Drafted with help from counterterrorism experts at the U.S. Department of Justice and the FBI, these bills provide penalties for intentional economic damage and disruption, and intentionally causing bodily harm or placing a person in reasonable fear of death or bodily harm. They address third-party targeting, prohibiting intentional damage of property belonging to a person or organization with ties to a legitimate animal enterprise.

**We urge you to support HR4239 through your cosponsorship.** If you or your staff has any questions, please contact any of us or Steve Kopperud at 202-776-0071 or [skopperud@poldir.com](mailto:skopperud@poldir.com). Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

## **NATIONAL AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATIONS**

American AgriWomen  
American Association of Bovine Practitioners  
American Association of Swine Veterinarians  
American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges  
American Feed Industry Assn.  
American Horse Council  
American Meat Institute  
American Sheep Industry Assn.  
American Veal Assn.  
Animal Agriculture Alliance  
Animal Health Institute  
Biotechnology Industry Organization  
Farm Animal Welfare Coalition  
Federation of Animal Science Societies  
Fur Commission USA  
International Committee for Veal Welfare  
Livestock Marketing Assn.  
National Cattlemen's Beef Assn.  
National Chicken Council  
National Grain & Feed Assn.  
National Livestock Producers Assn.  
National Meat Assn.  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Renderers Assn.  
National Turkey Federation  
North American Meat Processors Assn.  
Southwest Meat Assn.  
United Egg Producers  
Veal USA

## **NATIONAL ANIMAL ORGANIZATIONS/INTERESTED PARTIES**

Ag Associates  
American Land Rights Assn.  
American Pet Products Manufacturers Assn.  
Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks & Aquariums  
Conservative Ag Lobbying Foundation  
Friends in Dog Ownership  
Fur Information Council of America  
International Marine Animal Trainers Assn.  
National Animal Interest Alliance  
National Animal Interest Alliance Trust  
National Trappers Assn.  
Pet Food Institute  
Professional Rodeo Cowboys Assn.  
Property Rights Foundation of America  
Sportsmen's & Animal Owners Voting Alliance

## **STATE AGRICULTURE/LAND USE ORGANIZATIONS**

### Alabama

Alabama Livestock Markets Assn.

### Alaska

Concerned Alaskans for Resources & Environment

### California

California Aquaculture Assn.  
California Farm Bureau Federation  
California Forest Assn.  
California Grain & Feed Assn.  
California Poultry Federation  
Friends of Rodeo  
Pacific Coast Renderers Assn.  
Pacific Egg & Poultry Assn.

### Florida

Florida Association of Livestock Markets  
Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Assn.

### Georgia

Georgia Livestock Markets Assn.

### Idaho

Far West Agribusiness Assn.

### Illinois

Grain & Feed Association of Illinois  
Illinois Pork Producers Assn.

### Indiana

Indiana Grain & Feed Assn.  
Indiana Pork Advocacy Coalition

### Iowa

Agribusiness Association of Iowa  
Iowa Pork Producers Council

### Kansas

Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Assn.  
Kansas Dairy Assn.  
Kansas Grain & Feed Assn.  
Kansas Livestock Assn.

#### Kentucky

Kentucky Livestock Auction Assn.

#### Louisiana

Louisiana Forestry Assn.

#### Massachusetts

Northeast Ag & Feed Alliance

#### Michigan

Michigan Agri-Business Assn.  
Michigan Bio-Economy Consortium  
Michigan Pork Producers Assn.

#### Minnesota

Minnesota Agri-Growth Council

#### Mississippi

Mississippi Livestock Markets Assn.

#### Montana

Communities for a Great Northwest

#### Nebraska

Nebraska Grain & Feed Assn.  
Nebraska Pork Producers Assn.

#### New Hampshire

Northeast Ag & Feed Alliance

#### New York

Allegheny Forest Alliance  
Northeast Ag & Feed Alliance

#### North Carolina

North Carolina Livestock Auction Markets Assn.

Ohio

Ohio AgriBusiness Assn.  
Ohio Cattlemen's Assn.  
Ohio Pork Producers

Oklahoma

American Farmers & Ranchers  
Oklahoma Cattlemen's Assn.  
Oklahoma Farmers Union  
Oklahoma Grain & Feed Assn.  
Oklahoma Livestock Marketing Assn.  
Oklahoma Pork Council

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Forest Industry Assn.  
Pennsylvania Livestock Markets Assn.  
Take Back Pennsylvania

South Carolina

South Carolina Livestock Markets Assn.  
South Carolina Pork Producers

South Dakota

South Dakota Pork Producers Council

Tennessee

Tennessee Livestock Markets Assn.

Texas

Texas Cattle Feeders Assn.  
Texas Grain & Feed Assn.  
Texas Pork Producers Assn.

Utah

Far West Agribusiness Assn.  
Fur Breeders Agricultural Co-Operative  
Utah Pork Producers

## Virginia

Virginia Livestock Markets Assn.  
Virginians for Property Rights  
Virginia Pork Producers

## West Virginia

Association of West Virginia Livestock Auction Markets

## Wisconsin

Dairy Business Assn.  
North American Fur Auctions  
Wisconsin Agri-Service Assn.  
Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation  
Wisconsin Pork Assn.  
Wisconsin Veal Growers Assn.  
Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Assn.

## Washington

American Legend Cooperative  
American Mink Council  
Far West Agribusiness Assn.  
Northwest Farm Food Coop  
Olympic Fur Breeders Assn.