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04333-0001

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

October 17, 2016

Mr. Wayne Pacelle, President and CEO
The Humane Society of the United States
1255 23rd Street, NW, Suite 450
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Mr. Pacelle:

I am writing to express my deep distrust for your organization and the cynical, political tactics that the Humane Society continues to employ. While hiding behind the guise of a charitable organization devoted to animal welfare, it has become clear to me that the Humane Society of the United States does very little to support the hard work of local shelters and animal welfare efforts. Rather, your organization is nothing more than a money-raising and lobbying operation advocating for extreme proposals using "any means necessary" tactics.


As you know, the Humane Society of the United States' last foray into Maine politics involved an extreme proposal to effectively stop bear hunting, over the objections of Maine's wildlife biologists. The Humane Society tried everything from millions of dollars in spending on a deceptive political campaign to lawsuits to intimidate those who disagreed with your extreme point of view. Thankfully, the Maine voters saw through the rhetoric and rejected your referendum.

I understand that your organization continues its strong-arm tactics. Specifically, another ballot question, this time in Massachusetts. Again, this is another extreme proposal that will not only hurt the agricultural community in New England but also Massachusetts consumers, who will be hit with higher and higher grocery bills.

What prompted me to write you, however, are my concerns regarding your tactics in Maine that were undertaken solely to influence your latest referendum in Massachusetts. This summer, we saw that the Humane Society would go so far as to have one of its own people lie to a Maine employer so that they could secretly take video of their egg farm. From there, your organization widely publicized its videos along with unfounded animal welfare allegations. Once you had succeeded in grabbing headlines, you used hours of video shot by an employee who was supposed to be taking care of chickens to initiate an investigation.

I will not be silent while your organization attempts to use a good Maine business to advance your national fundraising. You need to understand that I will continue to tell the public the true story about your misrepresentations and your disservice to local animal welfare efforts. Local humane societies truly care for the welfare of animals – you do not.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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