



Veg Climate Alliance
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Re: Avoid Climate Catastrophe: Please Support Shifts to Plant-Based Diets

October 21, 2009

Dear ,

Please consider the mounting evidence that a major societal shift towards plant-based diets is essential if the world is to avoid an unprecedented catastrophe from climate change and other environmental threats. And please help inform the public of the negative environmental effects of their food choices and the urgency of major dietary changes, in order to help shift our imperiled planet to a sustainable path.

We urge you to consider the following important but often overlooked research, as you consider recommendations for reducing climate threats.

- A 2006 report by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization “Livestock’s Long Shadow” determined that livestock production is globally responsible for more GHGs (in CO₂ equivalents) than all the world’s transport combined (18 percent vs. 13.5 percent).
- There is increasing evidence that the impact of animal agriculture is far worse than the 18% mentioned. A major new assessment by two environmentalists published in the November/December World Watch magazine concluded that the livestock sector contributes over half of global human-caused greenhouse gas emissions.
- Making the situation even worse, the UN report projects that the world’s population of farmed animals will double in 50 years if current trends continue. The resulting increase in GHGs would largely negate emission reductions from all other sectors – making it very unlikely that we will be able to avoid the impending climate disaster.

Hence it is absolutely imperative that there be a major shift toward plant-based diets if we are to have even a chance to avoid the impending catastrophe. This is why Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, head of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and others are urging people to significantly reduce their consumption of meat.

Besides reducing global warming threats, a dietary shift away from animal products would have many other globally significant social and environmental benefits:

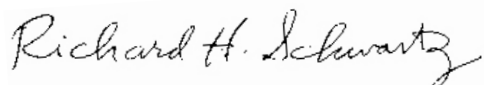
- **Increased health and quality of life.** There would be a major relief from chronic disease epidemics such as heart disease, cancer and diabetes, with a related decrease in medical expenditures, freeing public funds to meet environmental and other societal challenges.
- **The prevention of future zoological diseases and infections** such as swine flu, bird flu, MRSA, mad cow disease, blue tongue disease, E. coli.
- **A significant relief to global chronic hunger** which now afflicts over a billion people. Over 40 percent of the world's grain is fed to farmed animals, and most vital nutrients are lost in the conversion.
- **A reduction of the severe mistreatment and cruel and unnecessary killing of billions of farmed animals.**
- **The reduction of many environmental threats.** Raising over 60 billion animals annually worldwide is the major contributor to most, if not all, environmental problems. These include wholesale deforestation, soil erosion and depletion, ocean and fresh water pollution and other habitat poisoning, the rapid extinction of species, and many more environmental problems (outlined well in Livestock's Long Shadow).
- **Safeguarding future resources.** The production of animal products wastes huge amounts of water, land, energy and other valuable resources.
- **Peaceful prospects.** Because of global climate change, there will be many more desperate hungry, thirsty, homeless people fleeing droughts, wildfires, storms, floods and disease, greatly increasing the potential for instability, violence, terrorism and war.

Taking the above factors into account, it is clear that the world's people are at a perilous turning point. We can continue present diets and contribute to the mounting problems and approaching calamity. Or we can shift to nutritious plant-based diets, greatly increasing prospects for a more peaceful, healthy and sustainable future for the planet's people.

You are in a position to help determine the fate of future generations. **Please do all that you can to help the world make the dietary and other choices that can help avoid the impending cataclysm. For example, please consider recommending that governments stop subsidizing the production of animal products and begin subsidizing healthier, more environmentally-positive food production and consumption choices, as for instance the organic vegan diet.**

Thank you for your consideration, and best wishes as you carry on with your important efforts toward a better, more environmentally sustainable world. Please feel free to share this message with other government officials and other influential people.

Very truly yours,



Richard Schwartz
Director, Veg Climate Alliance

Supporting groups and individuals include: (List in formation)

- Veg Climate Alliance (Initiator of the Letter)
<http://www.VegClimateAlliance.org>
- AgireOra Network, Italy
<http://www.agireora.org>
- Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals, UK
<http://www.aswa.org.uk>
- Animal Place, USA
<http://www.animalplace.org>
- Animal Protectors, USA
- Animals Australia, Australia
<http://www.AnimalsAustralia.org>
<http://www.SaveBabe.com>
<http://www.LiveExport-Indefensible.com>
- A Well-Fed World, USA
<http://www.wellfedworld.org>
- Penny Bassett-Scarfe, reporter and TV interviewer, Australia
- Bunny Huggers, UK
<http://www.bunnyhuggers.org.uk>
- Campaign Against Animals in Research Experiments , UK
<http://www.caare.org.uk>
- Catholic Concern for Animals-USA, USA
<http://www.Catholic-animals.org>
- Christian Vegetarian Association, USA
<http://www.all-creatures.org/cva>
- Centro Vegetariano, Portugal
<http://www.centrovegetariano.org>
- Compassionate Action for Animals, USA
<http://www.ExploreVeg.org>
- Compassion For Animals Day, Australia
<http://www.CompassionForAnimalsDay.com>
- Concern for Helping Animals in Israel (CHAI), USA and Israel
<http://www.chai-online.org>
- Rabbi Gabriel Cousens, M.D., Director of the Tree of Life Rejuvenation Center and Tree of Life Foundation, USA
<http://www.treeoflife.nu/>
- Dansk Vegetarforening (Danish Vegetarian Society), Denmark
<http://www.vegetarforening.dk>
- Edinburgh the Fur-Free City, UK
<http://www.edinburghfurfreecity.co.uk>
- European Vegetarian and Animal News Alliance (EVANA), Europe
<http://www.evana.org>
- European Vegetarian Union (EVU), Europe
<http://www.euroveg.eu>
- Farm Animal Rights Movement (FARM), USA
<http://www.farmusa.org>
- Global Meat FREE Petition, International
<http://www.MeatFreePetition.com>
- God's Creatures Ministry, USA
<http://www.Godscreaturesministry.org>
- Highlands Vegetarian Community, Australia
<http://www.highlandsvc.org.au>
- Jens Holm, former Member of the European Parliament 2006-2009, Sweden
<http://www.jensholm.se/english>
- Humane HEART (Health, Education, & Abuse Resolution Taskforce), USA
- IG Glücklich Leben ohne Fleisch (Happy Life without Meat), Switzerland
<http://www.legalbanofmeat.info>
- In Defence of Animals (IDA) USA
<http://www.idausa.org>
- Interfaith Council for the Protection of Animals and Nature (ICPAN), USA
<http://www.ICPANonline.org>
- Jewish Vegetarians of North America, USA
<http://www.jewishveg.com>
- Jews for Animal Rights (JAR), USA
<http://www.micahbooks.com>
- Kind Green Planet, USA
<http://kindgreenplanet.org>
- Helmut F. Kaplan, Ph.D., philosopher and animal rights author, Austria
<http://www.tierrechte-kaplan.org>
- Let's Act Now, International
<http://www.letsactnow.org>
- L214, France
<http://www.l214.com>
- Meat Free Movement, International
<http://www.MeatFreeMovement.org>
- Menschen für Tierrechte, Tierversuchsgegner Baden-Württemberg e.V. (Humans for Animal Rights, Registered Association of Opponents of Animal Testing Baden-Württemberg), Germany
- Nutrition Ecology International Center (NEIC), International
<http://www.nutritionecology.org>
- Charles Patterson, Ph.D., author of ETERNAL TREBLINKA (in 14 languages), USA
<http://www.powerfulbook.com>
- Proanima, Romania
<http://www.proanimasv.ro>
<http://www.proanima.wordpress.com>
- programa accion comunitaria por el medio ambiente (Community Action Program for the Environment), Dominican Republic
<http://www.acxm.blogspot.com>
- Planetdiet, UK
<http://www.planetdiet.org>
- Protectia si Drepturile Animalelor (Animal protection & rights), Romania
<http://www.protectiaanimalelor.ro>
- Revolutionary Action Conservation Society For Helping Animals, India
- John Robbins, USA
Author of many books, including "The Food Revolution"
<http://www.Foodrevolution.org>
- San Francisco Vegetarian Society, USA
<http://www.sfvs.org>
- Schweizerische Vereinigung für Vegetarismus (Swiss Union for Vegetarianism), Switzerland
<http://www.vegetarismus.ch>
- Dr Nandita Shah, India
<http://www.sharan-india.org>
- Society of Ethical and Religious Vegetarians, USA
<http://www.serv-online.org>
- SOS Klimawandel (SOS Climate Change), Austria
<http://www.sos-klimawandel.info>
- Supreme Master Television, USA
<http://www.suprememastertv.com>
- Tierschutznews (Animal Protection News), Switzerland
<http://www.tierschutznews.ch>
- Uncaged, UK
<http://www.uncaged.co.uk>
- Vegan Society NSW, Australia
<http://www.vegansocietynsw.com>
- VEGAN 2050, USA
<http://www.vegan2050.org>
- Vegetarian Network Victoria, Australia
<http://www.vnv.org.au>
- Vegetarian Tasmania, Australia
<http://www.tasveg.org>