

October 19, 2006

The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner Jr.
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
House of Representatives
2449 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Jim:

I want to call your attention to the enclosed *Deseret News* article today about animal rights protests in front of the homes of prominent Utahns, executives of Huntsman Corporation. The company's founder, Jon Huntsman, Sr., is one of the country's leaders in the fight against cancer. His son Jon Huntsman, Jr., is Utah's governor.

As you know, the type of activity targeted against Huntsman executives is growing, and real threats of bodily harm and other means of intimidation are becoming a common tool by these extremist groups. There is something you can do to help ensure that protests such as this will remain civil and peaceful.

Together with Senators Jim Inhofe and Dianne Feinstein, I cosponsored S. 3880, the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act. This bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent on September 30, 2006, and has been sent to the House of Representatives. When the House returns in November, I urge you to get this legislation placed on the suspension calendar, pass it, and send it to the President for his signature.

This bill will broaden the protection for animal researchers and tertiary targets, and directly address the tactics used by eco-terrorist groups. Certain groups have perpetrated various crimes against animal researchers and associated businesses by being part of small autonomous cells which are very difficult to find and prosecute. These groups have utilized scare tactics, threats of violence, property damage, and physical violence to intimidate businesses and personnel involved in animal research and associated activities. These eco-terrorists have also targeted businesses and people who simply do business with companies whom the eco-terrorists object to.

The intimidation tactics utilized by these activists against individuals and their family members is directly addressed by this legislation. This bill will make a difference, and ensure that innocent citizens are no longer subject to the abhorrent tactics utilized by these eco-terrorist groups. I urge you to put this bill on the suspension calendar and pass it during the upcoming lame duck session.

Sincerely,

Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senator

OGH/jbb

Enclosure

CC: Speaker of the House, Dennis Hastert
House Majority Leader, John Boehner