

Mr. Bill Gates, Chairman  
Microsoft  
1 Microsoft Way  
Redmond, WA 98052

Dear Mr. Gates:

I have deep concern regarding one of the partners on Microsoft's i'm Initiative, the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). The i'm Initiative is a laudable program providing financial support to non-profit organizations, however, HSUS, while no doubt effective—one of the program's stated criteria—is not the national organization for local humane shelters, and it is not what it appears to be on the surface.

HSUS, an organization that your company has guaranteed to fund with at least \$100,000, is the nation's largest animal rights activist group. The vegan-led organization spends millions of dollars annually attacking American agriculture, hunting, circuses, rodeos and zoos. The organization alienates millions of America's farmers and ranchers as well as everyday consumers.

Less than a year ago, in September of 2006 at HSUS' Taking Action for Animals conference, Wayne Pacelle, HSUS President vowed to redouble the animal rights group's efforts against animal agriculture.

In October of 2006 at The Strength of Many Conference in Los Angeles, Miyun Park, HSUS' Vice President of Farm Animal Welfare, declared that the organization's long-term goal for the egg laying and broiler chicken industry is, "to get rid of the industry." In 1999, Ms. Park was acknowledged as a financial benefactor of *No Compromise* magazine, a self-described militant, direct action magazine for supporters of the Animal Liberation Front (ALF), the top domestic terror priority of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Your company should end this relationship immediately.

Responsible farmers and ranchers like me are outraged at your company's support of this organization.

HSUS campaigns at the ballot box, in court, in state legislatures and in Congress to end animal agriculture. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, in 2006 HSUS spent more money on elections than ExxonMobil. Additionally, HSUS and its allies spent nearly \$2 million on Arizona Proposition 204, an initiative aimed at putting one farm in Arizona out of business.

American farmers and ranchers feed the USA and much of the rest of the world. HSUS' actions put our ability to effectively feed people at risk. I trust Microsoft would not knowingly support such a radical agenda. Please end Microsoft's relationship with HSUS.

I appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,