

April 23, 2009

The Rush Limbaugh Show
1270 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10020

Dear Mr. Limbaugh:

The 28 wildlife conservation organizations listed below represent the interests of millions of hunters, anglers, trappers and other outdoor enthusiasts from across the United States. We are writing to express our disappointment in your decision to enter into a partnership with the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and ask that you reconsider your decision.

Every year, billions of dollars are pumped into conservation and local economies by American hunters, anglers, and trappers through the purchases of their licenses, equipment and clothing, and through their expenditures on hotels, travel and dining. They are the backbone of the North American Model of Wildlife Management, which has brought fish and wildlife populations to historic numbers for all Americans to enjoy.

No other country on the Earth has realized the success of our system, which is underwritten almost entirely by America's top conservationists: hunters, anglers and trappers.

Hunting, fishing, and trapping are one of the largest economic engines in many states across our country. From the Midwest, to the Deep South to the Big Sky states and more, rural towns depend on the economic boom that occurs every year when hunting, fishing, and trapping seasons are open. **Nationally, hunting produces more than \$66 Billion per year to our economy and is responsible for maintaining nearly 600,000 jobs!**

More important than dollars and cents, these sports are an essential part of our American heritage. Formerly one of the keys to our very survival, they are now viewed as a wholesome, family treasure passed from generation to generation.

Yet all of these great success stories would come to a complete end if the organization you have endorsed were to achieve its full agenda. Despite a few programs designed to attract support from the general public, HSUS is in fact an organization that opposes hunting, fishing, and trapping. Its leadership has a long and established history of promoting legislation, litigation, and referenda to restrict the rights of American sportsmen and women.

Here is a sample of the many quotes from HSUS president Wayne Pacelle that illuminate the agenda of his organization:

"If we could shut down all sport hunting in a moment, we would." *Associated Press*

"Our goal is to get sport hunting in the same category as cock fighting and dog fighting. Our opponents say hunting is a tradition. We say traditions can change." *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*

“We are going to use the ballot box and the democratic process to stop all hunting in the United States ... We will take it species by species until all hunting is stopped in California. Then we will take it state by state.” quoted in an interview published in the magazine *Full Cry*

"We have no problems with the extinction of domestic animals. They are creations of human selective breeding." *Animal People News*

Your decision to produce these advertisements for HSUS, and the implied endorsements that come with them, are a real coup for their cause. With America's most prominent conservative spokesman on board, they have the opportunity to make in-roads in to a new cross-section of our country.

You are helping them to mainstream their image in the minds of reasonable people. Your collaboration furthers the anti-hunting and anti-fishing agenda of HSUS, which will undermine the great success of conservation and threatens the economies of small towns and rural states across our nation.

For this reason, the 28 undersigned organizations ask you to reconsider your decision and end the collaboration with the Humane Society of the United States.

Respectfully,

Archery Trade Association

Boone & Crockett Club

Catch a Dream Foundation

Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

Conservation Force

Dallas Safari Club

Delta Waterfowl

Ducks Unlimited

Houston Safari Club

Masters of Foxhounds Association of North America

Mule Deer Foundation

National Shooting Sports Foundation

National Trappers Association

National Wild Turkey Federation

North American Bear Foundation

North American Grouse Partnership

Pheasants Forever

Pope & Young Club

Quail Forever

Quality Deer Management Association

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Texas Wildlife Association

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance

Whitetails Unlimited

Wildlife Forever

Wildlife Management Institute

Wild Sheep Foundation