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August 26, 2003

Steven Jay Gross, Ph.D.
People for the Ethical
Treatment of Animals
501 Front Street
Norfolk, VA 23510

Dear Dr. Gross:

AgriProcessors, Inc., has asked me, as its attorney, to respond to your letter of June 18, 2003, and to your subsequent communications with employees of AgriProcessors.

You may rest assured that, contrary to the assertion in your letter, neither Jewish law nor "common decency" is being violated in the AgriProcessors plant. Kosher slaughter is being conducted in accordance with the letter and spirit of Jewish law, which prescribes the most humane treatment of animals that has been known throughout human history. Long before the rest of the world showed any "common decency" to animals or had the slightest concern for the treatment of animals, the laws of the Torah and rabbinic teachings commanded the Jewish people to treat all living creatures humanely. Secular society – including your organization – has still not caught up with the precepts of Jewish law in this regard.

Although your letter makes a number of conclusory incendiary allegations regarding practices in the AgriProcessors plant, you fail to specify any violation of Jewish law or "common decency" that you claim occurs in the plant. If you want your letter to be taken seriously as anything other than a springboard for offensive publicity, please provide detailed descriptions of specific conduct to support your conclusions.

You request in your letter of June 18 that AgriProcessors "agree to hire Dr. Temple Grandin" as a consultant. If this is meant as a constructive suggestion regarding possible employment, AgriProcessors would have to know the details of Dr. Grandin's "long history of working with plants engaged in kosher slaughter" and would have to have references from those whom she has, as you indicate, "guided" in this regard. Please provide these details so that AgriProcessors can make a considered decision regarding this hiring recommendation. And please advise us whether you have consulted with Dr. Grandin and obtained authorization from her for the proposal made your letter of June 18.

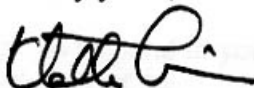
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If, on the other hand, your letter is intended to be a demand that Dr. Grandin be hired, as you specify, "within two months of receipt of this letter" or your organization will take steps to "share" information you allegedly have "with anyone else," it appears to be an extortionate blackmail demand that violates the criminal laws of the State of Iowa (16 Iowa Code Ann. § 711.4) and of the Commonwealth of Virginia (Va. Code Ann. § 18.2-59), as well as federal criminal law set out in 18 U.S.C. §§ 873 and 876.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,



Nathan Lewin

cc: Mr. Sholom Rubashkin
AgriProcessors, Inc.