



FEMA

APR 08 2009

Mr. Wayne Pacelle  
President and CEO  
The Humane Society of the United States  
2100 L Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Mr. Pacelle,

Thank you for your letter, dated March 9, 2009, drawing my attention to a May 2008 Federal Emergency Management Agency preparedness document entitled, "Ecoterrorism: Environmental and Animal-Rights Militants in the United States." In that document, the Humane Society of the United States and the Fund for Animals are inappropriately described as having "known or possible links to ecoterrorism," and as "known or suspected of having financial ties to individuals and groups associated with ecoterrorism."

This is obviously an erroneous allegation. The 2008 document, which was produced under contract but never approved for use by the responsible program office, is associated with the Universal Adversary (UA) Program, which is a longstanding effort that supports our preparedness exercise activities by providing unclassified, standardized, fictional, but still realistic terrorist adversaries.

I have directed the following immediate actions to correct this error, address your concerns, and put the necessary controls in place to prevent other mischaracterizations:

- The current 2009 document contains none of the offending references to the Humane Society and Fund for Animals.
- We have notified all users of Program materials that the Humane Society and Fund for Animals do *not* have any of the links alleged in this unapproved document, and that any existing copies of it are to be immediately destroyed.
- We shut down the Program's web portal in order to review every posted document to assure they contain no similar references.
- We have overhauled the Program's document publication process to preclude publication or posting of documents without formal government review and approval, including by the senior executive with oversight over the program office.
- We have retrained and counseled the government and contractor teams to ensure they understand and abide by the protocols for document review and approval.

I appreciate that you brought this error to our attention. While we have not had a comparable occurrence over the life of the Universal Adversary Program, your letter prompted us to review our procedures and institute more rigorous safeguards.

We greatly appreciate your partnership with us on many important initiatives, such as developing guidance for the incorporation of household pets and service animals into emergency planning at all levels of government. We look forward to many similarly productive initiatives between our organizations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Corey Gruber', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Corey Gruber  
Acting Deputy Administrator  
National Preparedness Directorate