

**STATEMENT OF
PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS
NOVEMBER 10, 2004**

PETA

**PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS**

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PETA feels duty-bound to join in this lawsuit to protect the fundamental liberties of personal privacy and freedom of association for human beings. Battles for liberties are hard won and there should be no slide backwards when it comes to freedoms in this country where we are fighting now to end the suffering and exploitation of the most abused and discriminated-against underclasses in history, the other species who are still denied all basic rights.

No program administered by the federal government should include a blacklist reminiscent of the dark days of McCarthyism. All social movements in our nation's history have been wrongly attacked by their opponents, and, in PETA's case, these opponents are the businesses that profit from turning sentient beings into food, fashion, living toys and tools for experimentation. To protect PETA, our employees, and others we know to be doing compassionate and vital work to help acquire respect for animals and achieve recognition of their inherent worth outside their utility to humans, we have been forced to check this list to make sure that no person or group has, to our knowledge, been wrongly listed as a result of disinformation, manipulation or bias.

From what we can tell, no animal protection advocates are on these blacklists. However, we object to the CFC certification which forces charities to choose between two equally repugnant and un-American options: Forego the donations of thousands of caring government workers who contribute greatly to our charitable programs by refusing to make the certification, or check the blacklists to make sure no one doing good works is being smeared by inclusion. This is an objectionable choice in our constitutional democracy and we suggest that the CFC blacklist certification requirement belongs on the trash heap of history alongside similar McCarthy-era impositions.