



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WINTHROP, MAINE – Before Mainers **Vote YES on Question 3** tomorrow, [Right to Food for Maine](#) would like to let people know who is behind the opposition. The folks who want to keep people from being able to feed themselves the food they know is best for them and their families.

Wayne Pacelle former CEO of the Humane Society of the United State (HSUS) wrote in Full Cry magazine, "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." He also worked to shift the HSUS focus to wiping out all animal agriculture. When he left the HSUS in disgrace he founded Animal Welfare Action. An organization with a branch in southern Maine. The HSUS has a total annual lobbying budget of \$39.6 million.

Several board members of HSUS are employees of McKinsey & Company. This firm was brought in as a consultant to promote the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). AGRA was started by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. AGRA is pushing changes to seed laws that protect patented seeds and penalize seed trading. McKinsey has been developing policy plans for AGRA and organizing lobbying meetings between agricultural investors and government representatives in African countries. McKinsey is promoting policies in Africa to encourage land-spreading of sludge and industrial wastes by farmers, consolidation of farm land control, and increase use of AI in farming. Africa is their test case before moving this business plan out to the rest of the world. At the recent United Nations Food Systems Summit several national and international small farmer organizations, including the National Family Farm Coalition and La Via Campesina, protested the takeover of UN food policy by AGRA and other Big Ag players.

In 2016 HSUS, along with Tyson Foods and Bill Gates, invested venture capital in Beyond Meat a venture that is promoting the consumption of over processed plant-based meat substitutes. Since that time, HSUS and spin-off group Animal Wellness Action (AWA) have been actively promoting Beyond Meat as a solution to animal welfare concerns.

In September of 2021, Animal Wellness Action announced formation of a new group, "Right to Food Leaves a Bad Taste In Our Mouth Coalition." The press release from AWA showed its DC-roots, listing the campaign against Question 3 as being in Portland, Oregon, instead of Portland, Maine.

The AWA Coalition is headed up by Gina Garey, Maine state director of Animal Wellness Action, and former Vice President of Wealth Management for Morgan Stanley. The opposition group is registered as a PAC with the Maine Ethics Commission as "No on 3: Right to Food is Wrong for Maine Committee." As of this writing, AWA is listed as the only donor to that PAC whose contribution isn't earmarked for repayment.

There are close links between the Maine Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) and AWA. AWA created the National Veterinary Council to put veterinarians in the forefront of its organizing and provide public credibility for its policy goals. The President of the Maine Veterinary Medical Association is a long-time member of the Maine Animal Welfare Advisory Council

If you "follow the money" you can easily see what the true motivation of the Question 3 opponents are: deny Mainers the right to protect their traditional foodways, including hunting, fishing, raising livestock for human consumption, and saving and exchanging seeds. As Henry Kissinger knew, if you control the food and you control the people. And Fannie Lou Hamer told us, if you can feed yourself no one can push you around or tell you what to do.

**Vote YES on Question 3** to defeat the big money players who want to continue to control our food supply and infringe our fundamental human right to obtain the food we wish.

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**Right to Food. Right for ME. Vote YES on Question 3.**