

## College of Arts and Sciences

1 June 2019

## To whom it may concern:

I write this letter to recommend Greg Fuller's services, as a speaker or guest authority, on all issues pertaining to veganism and animal rights. I have known Mr. Fuller for many years now as he graduated from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 2001 with a major in Philosophy, at which time he had studied under Dr. James Rachels, one of the discipline's early advocates (along with Peter Singer and Tom Regan) for the complete re-evaluation and ethical reorientation of our treatment of animals.

Since that time, Greg has become increasingly involved in the animal rights movement and is fully conversant with its philosophical, ecological and social dimensions. He is personally acquainted with the most prominent activists in the field, attends conferences, and keeps up to date with all the latest developments.

Mr. Fuller has developed a presentation designed to acquaint people with the various issues surrounding the animal rights movement, in which he focuses on many the benefits of moving towards a plant-based diet. He has given this presentation to our department's philosophy club, which was very well received, and he has given many talks to the larger community, two of which I have attended

Greg's approach is to focus on the three central reasons why we should move towards a plant-based diet. First, he discusses the well-established health benefits of such a modification to our diet. This is something which Mr. Fuller can discuss from a first-person perspective as he himself noticed several long-term health issues resolve themselves as he moved away from the standard American diet. There has been a lot of popular interest in this subject of late, so Mr. Fuller can initially appeal to the self-interest of his audience.

He then moves on to discuss the moral dimensions of our treatment of animals. Here he can latch on to the very natural concern that most people have to not want to cause needless suffering to sentient creatures. Many of our practices can only exist because so many of us choose to leave them shrouded in darkness. Greg sheds a little light. While he avoids being

unnecessarily graphic, he emphasizes that every time we sit down to the dinner table we are making choices which we can see support a type of cruelty which we ourselves find abhorrent.

Finally, Greg discusses the ecological impact that the meat industry has on the health of our environment. Climate change, finally, is becoming more and more an accepted fact, but most people associate its cause with carbon emissions, while maintaining an almost complete ignorance of the role of methane as a major green house gas, and methane emissions are almost entirely a result of our consumption of large quantities of beef. Of course, there are other environmental consequences to our practices of meat production, which are grossly inefficient, such as the pollution of our rivers and streams with animal byproducts and the increased use of pesticides and herbicides.

Mr. Fuller has some experience giving his presentation and can cater his talk to the audience he is addressing. So, if he is speaking to a philosophy club or a college class room, he would emphasize the philosophical arguments, but if he is speaking to a larger audience, he would use a more historical approach, or he could perhaps single out the environmental arguments for special emphasis if the group's interest lie more in that direction. His presentation could be as short as 30-45 minutes or as long as 90. He uses power point but is not enslaved to it and could offer the presentation without it. He would be more than capable of fielding the Q and A portion of any presentation and would be generally received as an engaging speaker and likable individual.

Greg has been continually developing a website devoted to these issues for some time. This site can be used as a resource for anyone interested in any of these issues, and it alone offers evidence of his knowledge and dedication. The site can be found at <a href="https://jfa.wiki">https://jfa.wiki</a>, with Greg's profile at <a href="https://jfa.wiki/Greg\_Fuller">https://jfa.wiki/Greg\_Fuller</a>.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns, but in sum, he has my full support and unqualified recommendation as a guest speaker for any audience for which there is interest in these subject matters.

Sincerely,

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