



PETA

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

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The Honorable Ken Flatto
First Selectman of Fairfield

Dear First Selectman Flatto,

On behalf of PETA and our more than 1.6 million members and supporters worldwide, I'm writing regarding the Penfield Reef Lighthouse, which as you may know, we recently applied to take possession of and to use as our Fish Empathy Project headquarters.

When we submitted our application, we were unaware of your efforts to obtain the lighthouse for the city of Fairfield. **We certainly understand your wish, and if you can ensure that no cruelty to fish—whether angling or the consumption of fish flesh—will occur on the lighthouse's grounds if the city takes control of the lighthouse, we will be happy to bow out of the competition.** We have other lighthouses in our sights, and although they may have different qualities, they could also provide a location for our campaign headquarters.

Please consider the following, which we included in our application to the U.S. General Services Administration:

There is a mountain of evidence that fish suffer enormously when dragged from their homes in large fishing nets or impaled with metal hooks by anglers. Dr. Donald Broom, a scientific advisor to the British government, said, "The scientific literature is quite clear. Anatomically, physiologically, and biologically, the pain system in fish is virtually the same as in birds and mammals."

Biologists have found that fish develop relationships with other fish and show affection by gently rubbing against one another. Fish have individual personalities, talk to each other, and grieve when their companions die. Fish are capable of using tools, and they gather information by eavesdropping. Dr. Sylvia Earle, the world's leading marine biologist, said, "I wouldn't deliberately eat a grouper any more than I'd eat a cocker spaniel. They're so good-natured, so curious. You know, fish are sensitive, they have personalities, they hurt when they're wounded."

I hope you'll agree that it would be appropriate to prohibit cruelty to sea animals on the grounds of the Penfield Reef Lighthouse—which protected those at sea for more than a century—and that you'll ensure that no one fishes or eats fish flesh there. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Matt Prescott, Manager
Vegan Campaigns

AN INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION DEDICATED
TO PROTECTING
THE RIGHTS OF ALL ANIMALS