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Honorable Puerto Rican Officials:

I am dismayed to learn about a proposed primate breeding center in Guayama City. I understand Bioculture, a Mauritius-based primate supply firm, intends to ship long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*) in for research.

I kindly ask officials to acknowledge global concern about breeding and import of monkeys for use in experimentation. Please suspend construction of Bioculture's facility in Puerto Rico. I encourage you to protect wildlife rather than exploit it.

Moreover, it does not serve human health to facilitate old-fashioned animal research. For example, researchers recognize primates do not contract the human strain of AIDS or develop its clinical symptoms. Of 85 HIV/AIDS vaccines tested in animals, each one failed in 197 human trials.

U.S. deaths or injuries linked to drug therapies more than doubled from 1998 to 2005, according to findings in the Archives of Internal Medicine. Each recalled drug had proven "safe" in animal tests.

Primate experiments have failed to yield tangible data for AIDS, Alzheimer's, stroke, cancer, and other diseases. Still, electrodes are lodged in the brains of monkeys. Seizures and infections are induced. Poisons are pumped through tubes, needles or inhaling devices. Babies are forcibly separated from mothers. Animals slowly go insane in a barren world of concrete and metal. Then they are killed.

As you may know, in-vitro cell technology, computer automation and other innovations are gradually rendering animal research obsolete. For example, researchers at Brown University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and elsewhere use complex microtissues made from cultured cells. Brown's Jeffrey R. Morgan, medical science and engineering professor, led a team that layered cells 3-dimensionally to replicate live human organs.

I urge Puerto Rico's leadership to keep pace with evolving standards. Please don't sully your image abroad by becoming a key source for primate suffering.

Thank you,