

[Name, title]
[Company name]
[Company address]
[City, state, zip code]

Dear [Name],

I recently visited [company name] and was horrified to see that live lobsters were crammed into a barren tank for patrons to grab using a mechanical claw. This cruel device belongs in the book of bad ideas, not in your business, and I hope you will consider getting rid of it.

Lobsters and fish are recognized by experts as being capable of experiencing great suffering and distress. Scientists in the European Union classify lobsters as “category I”—that is, animals who experience pain. Also in this category are dogs, cats, chickens, pigs, and humans. Dr. Nedim C. Buyukmihci, professor of veterinary surgery, writes, “There is no question that lobsters have the ability to feel pain and suffer ... [I]t would be inappropriate to do something to lobsters that you would not consider doing to conscious dogs, cats, or humans.” Dr. Jaren Horsley, an invertebrate zoologist at the National Zoo, found that lobsters possess a “sophisticated nervous system.”

It’s cruel to confine animals to a tiny tank and repeatedly torment them. Confined lobsters may suffer from stress, low oxygen levels, and crowding—as well as injury as they’re repeatedly poked and squeezed by the mechanical claw. And those who *are* caught are typically sent to the kitchen to be boiled alive and suffer *excruciating pain* every second of the three long minutes it takes for them to die.

Crane games should be played to win toys and teddy bears—not living animals. I hope you agree that tormenting lobsters for amusement is unethical and unacceptable and that you’ll remove the contraption right away.

I look forward to hearing back from you at your earliest convenience. You can reach me at [phone] or [email].

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

[Name]
[Title]