



March 9, 2023

James C. Foster, CEO
Charles River Laboratories International Inc.

Via e-mail: james.foster@criver.com

Dear Mr. Foster:

We're writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA is a Charles River Laboratories International Inc. shareholder, and PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally—to share concerns regarding Charles River's apparent failure to report several critical issues to its shareholders. On Wednesday, February 22, during Charles River's fourth-quarter [earnings conference call](#) and in your [annual report](#) filed that day, you failed to disclose several points that may affect Charles River investors.

- Two [companies/monkey farms](#) export monkeys from Cambodia. A November 2022 [U.S. Department of Justice \(DOJ\) indictment](#) alleges that monkeys from the Vanny Bio-Research (Cambodia) Corporation Ltd. (VBRC) were being laundered as “captive-bred,” despite being wild-caught. **While Charles River may publicly claim that it doesn't have any “direct supply contracts” with VBRC, you apparently obtain Cambodian long-tailed macaques from VBRC via the domestic purchase and transport of these monkeys who have been imported by other U.S. companies, notably the ones that PETA believes are unindicted co-conspirators of the November 2022 DOJ indictment.** Records obtained by PETA, available upon request, indicate that Charles River's Reno, Nevada, laboratory received 697 long-tailed macaques from Worldwide Primates on six separate occasions between June and October 2022. Additional records show that between May 2018 and October 2022 Charles River laboratories also received at least 2,537 long-tailed macaques from the two facilities licensed to import monkeys in Alice, Texas, now both owned by Inotiv, which disclosed after the November 2022 indictment that VBRC is its principal supplier of primates.
- On November 30, 2022, Charles River filed a report with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) that said, in part, that it “does not have any direct supply contracts with the indicted Cambodian supplier.” There is also no mention in the annual report of Charles River's Cambodian monkey supplier. Process of elimination, insider information, and additional evidence, including scientific publications stating that experiments at Charles River used monkeys from KF (Cambodia) LTD, indicate that this farm supplies Charles River with Cambodian monkeys. **The KF (Cambodia) LTD monkey farm, previously known as the Golden China monkey farm, reportedly has a sordid history of [engaging in the illegal capture of long-tailed macaques](#).**
- In June 2022, [long-tailed macaques were elevated to “endangered” on the International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\) Red List of](#)

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[Threatened and Endangered Species](#). The IUCN assessment specifically notes that the capture and trade of these monkeys for use by the biomedical industry has contributed to their dramatic population decline. PETA shared this information on November 28 in its shareholder proposal submitted for inclusion in the Charles River proxy statement for the 2023 annual meeting. To our knowledge, this information has not been disclosed in any of Charles River's filings with the SEC. It's crucial that our company inform shareholders of measures it is taking to reduce its impact on populations of long-tailed macaques, as this division of our company's business could suffer considerably if the company fails to be proactive.

- In early 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [sent an alert](#) to "interested parties," including state veterinary and public health officials and primate importers, which PETA obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request, that long-tailed macaques imported from Cambodia had been arriving infected with a bacteria so deadly that it's listed as a Tier 1 select agent. The CDC urged interested parties to use extreme caution when handling monkeys imported from Cambodia and stated that these animals could shed this dangerous bacteria into the soil and water. In December 2022, [CDC scientists](#) reported that even more monkeys imported from Cambodia had been found infected with this pathogen. Despite the known biosecurity risks, Charles River did not disclose this information in its 2022 annual report.
- On December 23, 2022, the FDA Modernization Act was signed into law by President Joe Biden. This new law, enacted to improve the process for biologics testing and approval for companies like Charles River, includes a provision that repeals the 85-year-old requirement for animal testing. The scientific community and our society as a whole acknowledge the ethical concerns and specifically the pharmaceutical industry's failings surrounding the continued reliance on animals testing. Despite your misleading comments during the fourth-quarter earnings call, methods that no longer rely on primates are gaining traction as more humane and scientifically relevant ways to assess the safety and efficacy of new biologics.

We urge you to come clean with your shareholders and again emphasize our resolution: that the board report to shareholders annually on the species, country of origin (including wild-caught or captive-bred, omitting proprietary information), and numbers of nonhuman primates imported by the company into the U.S.; the species and numbers of nonhuman primates transported within the country; and measures the company is taking to mitigate its impact on dwindling populations in nature. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



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