



March 9, 2016

Linda P. B. Katehi
Chancellor
University of California, Davis
One Shields Avenue
Davis, CA 95616

RE: Who is funding Jon Entine?

Dear Chancellor Katehi:

We are writing to ask you to reveal the sources of UC Davis funding for Jon Entine, the Genetic Literacy Project, the UC Davis Institute for Food and Agricultural Literacy, and its parent unit, the UC Davis World Food Center.

We are concerned that UC Davis may be acting as a financial conduit to enable corporations to direct third-party public relations attacks against targeted academics, individuals and institutions.

There is a significant body of evidence that Entine acts as a chemical industry public relations operative. Perhaps you are aware that he has written dozens of articles defending corporate interests, and attacking a range of targets whose work criticizes or detracts from the profit interests of the chemical and fossil fuel industries. Most recently, the Columbia Journalism School, as well as academics at Harvard and UC Berkeley, were his focus for attack.

Alongside his role as senior fellow at the the UC Davis Institute for Food and Agricultural Literacy, Entine is also executive director of the Genetic Literacy Project, which regularly attacks activists, journalists and scientists who raise concerns about the health and environmental risks of genetically engineered foods and pesticides.

The Genetic Literacy Project states on its website that "its office space in Washington, DC is supported in part by the University of California-Davis." Other than its support from UC Davis, the funding for the Genetic Literacy Project remains unclear.

On March 1st, in a column for the New York Post, Entine attacked the Columbia University's Journalism School, stating that it "smeared Exxon," engaged in "advocacy journalism," and hired "an activist" to run the Journalism School. In the byline for this column, Entine identifies himself as "founder of the Genetic Literacy Project" and "senior fellow at the University of California-Davis."

In the column, Entine attacked award-winning journalist Susanne Rust, who is editor of the Energy and Environment Reporting Fellowship at the Columbia Journalism School. Entine fails to mention that Rust

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and co-author Meg Kissinger exposed undisclosed industry ties of Entine's group STATS in a 2009 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel article, which reported that "STATS claims to be independent and nonpartisan. But a review of its financial reports shows it is a branch of the Center for Media and Public Affairs. That group was paid by the tobacco industry to monitor news stories about the dangers of tobacco."

Entine's New York Post article is his second recent foray into the arena of climate politics, defending oil companies and attacking climate change heroes. On February 1, Entine penned a Huffington Post attack on Harvard Professor Naomi Oreskes, co-author of Merchants of Doubt: How a Handful of Scientists Obscured the Truth on Issues from Tobacco to Global Warming. His byline for this article stated that he is "Executive Director of the Genetic Literacy Project" and "a Senior Fellow at the Institute for Food and Agricultural Literacy, University of California-Davis."

In 2012, Entine claimed he had "no idea" that Syngenta was funding the organization (American Council on Science and Health) that published his book defending Syngenta's herbicide, atrazine, according to reporting by Tom Philpott in Mother Jones.

Entine has also attacked UC Berkeley Professor Tyrone Hayes, a biologist whose research exposed the harmful effects of atrazine on amphibians. In a 2014 Forbes article, Entine wrote that, "Hayes has engaged in a relentless smear campaign against those who have challenged his one-off conclusions." Entine's article is mostly based on an analysis prepared by a Monsanto-funded academic, University of Illinois Professor Emeritus Bruce Chassy. Entine's bio for this article states that he is "Senior Fellow at the World Food Center's Institute for Food and Agricultural Literacy at the University of California-Davis."

Is UC Davis acting as a money laundry for funds from corporate interests, given for Jon Entine and the Genetic Literacy Project, to benefit corporations plagued with PR woes? Is UC Davis allowing its good name to bolster corporate PR attacks on honorable academics and academic institutions? If true, this damages the integrity and credibility of the University of California, Davis, and the entire University of California system.

We urge you to disclose the exact sources of funding, during the last three years, for Jon Entine, the Genetic Literacy Project, the UC Davis Institute for Food and Agricultural Literacy, and UC Davis World Food Center.

Sincerely,



Gary Ruskin
Co-director

cc: Janet Napolitano, President, University of California

Richard C. Blum, Member, University of California Board of Regents
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Gareth Elliott, Member, University of California Board of Regents
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