



Kristine Ellingsen
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Artist & Naturalist

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Office of Science Policy
National Institutes of Health
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To Whom it Concerns:

All people are animals. All animals are people. I am writing from the perspectives gained while earning my degrees in biology, ecology, mental health counseling, and music. I am writing as a member of the general public and as a person with compassion for all life.

I am very concerned that lifting the ban on chimera creation and opening the doors more widely to human/non-human genetic experimentation is being considered in part because, in the words of J. Robert Oppenheimer, it's a technological step that's "sweet"—in other words, irresistible. In my opinion, this is exactly the kind of sweetness that creates bitter dilemmas.

I realize that the NIH and related laboratories insist that this research is being done for the purpose of relieving much human suffering and curing many diseases. Okay, maybe. Partly. So I have a modest proposal. If you believe that you're doing this for the good, please put all your courage behind your choices. Please use your own cell lines. Please use embryonic cell lines from your own bodies and from your children's bodies. Take care of the resulting progeny for their entire lives. They will be your children and your grandchildren. That will help sort out the sweet from the bitter, the fantasies from the realities, the ethical from the thrillingly possible.

Respectfully yours,



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