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September 28, 2009

Barbara Baker  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium  
One Wild Place  
Pittsburgh PA 15206

VIA FACSIMILE (412-665-3661), EMAIL and FIRST CLASS MAIL

Dear Dr. Baker,

This is to follow up on my July 21, 2009 letter regarding the status of elephants Kallie and Bette at the International Conservation Center (ICC). Despite repeated follow-up phone calls to your office, I have not received a response. As previously communicated, there is great public interest in the welfare of the animals and continued concerns regarding the zoos' plans for them.

Since the late-night transfer of the elephants to the ICC on July 7, 2009, the zoos have provided just one update (the media event staged on July 28, 2009) along with some vague references to the elephants "doing well" at the facility. Among other things, members of Friends of Philly Zoo Elephants (FPZE), the general public as well as local residents want to know more about the previously-stated plans to breed Kallie and Bette, including the potential use of artificial insemination. Both the Pittsburgh and Philadelphia zoos have stated that the breeding of Kallie and Bette is contingent upon the approval of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). Because the AZA is a trade organization consisting of zoo affiliates or employees with a goal of increasing the population of elephants in zoos, we request the zoos to also solicit the opinion of third-party experts independent of any pressure from or influence of the AZA. Other concerns include the lack of free access to water and the amount of time Kallie and Bette will spend inside the barn now that the weather has turned cold. In Philadelphia, despite the zoo's claim that they were kept inside only on icy days, as a result of frequent zoo visits we discovered that Kallie and Bette in fact often spent weeks on end inside the barn during winter months.

Once again, we renew our request to tour the ICC ourselves. It is understood that zoos like to orchestrate media coverage, but opening the facility to us - as you have in the past - would be helpful in addressing many of the concerns we have about Kallie and Bette. I will be calling you in the next week to follow up on the issues in this letter. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Marianne Bessey/s*

Marianne Bessey

Cc: Vikram Dewan, via FACSIMILE (215-243-5288), EMAIL and FIRST CLASS MAIL