

陳芳語 KIMBERLEY CHEN

The Honorable Narumon Pinyosinwat, Ph.D.
Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives

Dear Minister:

I recently saw heartbreaking videos of monkeys being abusively trained and forced to collect coconuts for Thailand's coconut milk industry. I know that my fans—including those who attended the music festival in Thailand at which I sang last year—will be as saddened as I am to hear about the abuse of monkeys in the industry.

New video footage from my friends at PETA shows baby monkeys chained by their necks and surrounded by piles of rubbish. It's heartbreaking to see this slavery and to hear that these babies were often kidnapped from their families and natural homes at just a few months old. They will be chained, beaten, and forced to endure a lifetime of exhausting, dangerous labor. In nature, these sensitive, intelligent animals would spend their time foraging, exploring, and forming strong relationships with their group, but in the coconut milk industry, they're denied everything that's natural and important to them. They should be in their mothers' arms, but instead they're trapped like prisoners in Thailand's coconut industry. Many are driven insane after years of confinement and isolation.

As a consumer who values ethical practices, I've been researching brands of Thai coconut milk, hoping to find some that don't use monkey labor. But I've discovered that there are no reliable guarantees. Despite assurances and promises, I've read that coconut brokers have admitted to lying about farms' use of monkey labor and that audits—which are often announced in advance and disregard monkeys who live off site—are unreliable at best. However, I believe that positive change is possible and that we can strive for a future in which the Thai coconut milk industry is synonymous with ethical and compassionate practices.

I hope you'll find the compassion in your heart to help all monkeys from this industry by closing all remaining monkey-training schools. Your commitment to ethical standards would undoubtedly be appreciated by consumers worldwide.

I'll be awaiting your decision and hoping for good news for these animals.

Yours truly,



Kimberley Chen