

MR. CARLIN: Okay. That point will go
19 into the record, as well. Do we have a May Belle
20 Osborne?
21 MS. OSBORNE: Yes, you do.
22 MR. CARLIN: May Belle, are you teaming
23 up against us today?
24 MS. OSBORNE: I'm carrying her water.
25 MR. CARLIN: Carrying her water.

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1 MS. OSBORNE: Yeah. He's not going to
2 talk. I get to talk. I'm just going to read what I
3 have written down and that way I think I can keep
4 up with this guy and his pieces of paper.
5 MR. CARLIN: We'll find out. You go.
6 MS. OSBORNE: Okay. I represent We The
7 People. I'm here to talk to you all about the good,
8 the bad and the ugly. I have seen both sides of
9 the egg business in my family. My name is May
10 Belle Osborne. Tomorrow is my birthday. I was
11 my mother's Valentine gift. I was born in
12 Carthage, Missouri. My daddy got us from our
13 farm to the hospital despite the snowstorm or so
14 the story goes, so you see I grew up on a small
15 family farm and these things we are talking about
16 are corporate food production factories and they're
17 strangling the life out of the small family farmers.
18 It has become a moral issue and a matter
19 of life and death. By polluting the air, water and
20 land these animal factories are killing off tourism
21 in the Ozarks, small towns are dying and Neosho
22 where a Class 1A CAFO owned by Moark Land O
23 Lakes is expanding has Neosho's Crowder College
24 next door.
25 You have most likely noticed my hands by

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1 now. 33 years ago I was diagnosed -- well, I
2 diagnosed myself with rheumatoid arthritis, one of
3 over 100 kinds of arthritis. I just happened to
4 have the most systemic and deforming kind. I'm
5 also now 15 years out from breast cancer. I am a
6 survivor.
7 I have learned everything I can and used
8 the best that science has created along with
9 common sense and constant research. I believe it
10 is important to get an education about what life
11 throws your way and anything as you stumble
12 across. Quality of life is important to me, so my
13 food, air and water quality matter.
14 Let me begin with the ugly. There needs
15 to be a moratorium on CAFO's in Missouri. The

16 mixing of corporate money and politics is
17 particularly ugly. It creates greed, disregard for
18 citizens, mother earth, God's creation and
19 animals. State entities like the Missouri
20 Department of Natural Resources have become
21 nothing more than an economic development
22 agency. For years the southwest Missouri area
23 DNR serviceman acted as a prolific stenographer of
24 Moark violations.
25 Moark's Neosho Crowder College area

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1 Class 1A CAFO is currently permitted to expand
2 from 1.3 million to 3.9 million laying hens. I have
3 the short version of violations that he wrote up
4 and the Missouri DNR did little about. These
5 became the cause of my involvement. I was
6 shocked and I was saddened by what I read.

7 I have a listing of some of the
8 contributions made by my family and Moark Land
9 O Lakes officials to our elected officials preceding
10 the expansion of Moark Land O Lakes. The
11 transnational corporation Land O Lakes now owns
12 Moark, the bad, or so it turned out to be.

13 After returning from Korea and using his
14 GI Bill, my brother, Hollis Osborne, who is 12
15 years older than I, developed Moark Productions
16 which today is number one in egg marketing,
17 number three in egg production in the United
18 States.

19 He has been extremely successful as a
20 businessman using what he has described as good
21 Christian business principles. I don't know
22 exactly when he lost respect and caring for the
23 citizen neighbors and the land around him. He did
24 not even treat the employees humanely, let alone
25 the cage tent that are nothing more than egg

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1 factories.

2 As Europe is in the process of phasing out
3 these massive battery cage egg factories, the U.S.
4 builds them and holds dominion over the animals
5 imprisoning them to produce food. Our people
6 need to be educated about what happens to their
7 food before they pick it up at the drive-through
8 window. There needs to be more education about
9 eating a more sustainable diet.

10 As the climate changes, maybe it's time to
11 think about the old movie called Feeding His
12 People. I'll end, I can't leave out -- you can't
13 make me leave out the good. My other brother,

14 Jack Osborne --
15 MR. CARLIN: Good, because I was
16 starting to worry about family gatherings.
17 MS. OSBORNE: We don't have any. He is
18 eight years older than I and also in the egg
19 business. An entrepreneur, he created a cage free
20 egg business and asked his daughter, my niece, if
21 she was interested in running the business and
22 she turned it into a \$6 million a year business.
23 This is in Colorado. She is featured as one of the
24 millionaires on the cover of Millionaire Blueprints
25 Magazine in the 2007 January-February issue, so

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1 it is possible to be successful by using exacting
2 standards of humane treatment, no cages, no
3 hormones or antibiotics and a purely vegetarian
4 diet like the life of a regular barnyard chicken. I
5 only left out a little bit. I'm sorry.
6 MR. CARLIN: I'm glad you got the good
7 brother. I don't know what we're going to do about
8 the bad one, but anyway, you present a very
9 interesting message and we might have one or two
10 more, but it's kind of a nice little wrap-up in
11 terms of realistically laying out that it isn't like
12 everything is bad. It can be good and we can be
13 responsible. Yes, John.
14 MR. HATCH: I would like to know how
15 can you have the good production and make
16 money?

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17 MS. OSBORNE: My niece, she has
18 developed the business from the ground up, you
19 know, and she started out small by going to, you
20 know, one grocery store at a time and getting them
21 interested in the product and she found out that
22 people want it and I think that's what the big
23 issue is. People want their food to be safe. They
24 want it to be grown and, you know, the animals to
25 be raised in a humane and a good way.

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1 I had a pet chicken. I mean, Big Bertha
2 was -- she was a pet. And so I know that, you
3 know, if you treat them right, they produce well.
4 And in her entire article she has about how, you
5 know, how many eggs they lay and it's possible.
6 MR. HATCH: People pay more for the
7 eggs.
8 MS. OSBORNE: People pay more for the
9 eggs and they want them.
10 MR. CARLIN: Tom?

11 MR. HAYES: I think you win. You have
12 the most unique perspective we've heard from, I
13 think. It's really great you came. How many
14 chickens does your good brother's daughter have?

15 MS. OSBORNE: Look in there and tell
16 me. He's the number person.

17 MR. CARLIN: I thought you just carried
18 your water.

19 MR. OSBORNE: It's a six or \$7 million a
20 year gross and I would expect somewhere in the
21 range of two to three million birds.

22 MS. OSBORNE: So you see if there were
23 bunches of people doing that as opposed to this
24 humongous CAFO where they're all crammed in
25 there together, I guess you guys must have gone

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1 out and looked at those, or you know what they
2 look like.

3 MR. HAYES: I was just trying to figure
4 out, I mean, there is a huge range of CAFO's and
5 probably you're bringing up exactly the point.
6 Some people consider, you know, several million
7 birds -- I don't know how big the larger facility is,
8 but you could probably envision that as a CAFO
9 also, right?

10 MR. OSBORNE: Their houses are 10 or
11 15,000 birds per house. They're floor houses.
12 They're individually owned and she puts the names
13 of her growers on the web site and they partner
14 with her in supplying her the eggs, so they are
15 small floor houses diversely spent over a large
16 area so they don't have the concentrated amount of
17 manure. It comes out of the -- you know, a house
18 of 200,000 birds on a complex with 13 houses that
19 size.

20 MS. OSBORNE: She calls them the girls
21 and there's a picture of the girls waiting to get
22 into a laying nest.

23 MR. OSBORNE: A copy -- several copies
24 were submitted.

25 MR. CARLIN: I always thought Big

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1 Bertha was a driver.

2 MS. OSBORNE: Well, I guess if you are a
3 golf person.

4 MR. CARLIN: Do we have a picture of
5 who said that? Fred, get me out of this.

6 MR. KIRSCHENMANN: Well, I don't know
7 if anybody can get you out of that. I just wanted
8 to also express my appreciation particularly

9 because I think a lot of times we get caught up in
10 the notion that there's only one option and the
11 message that you brought to us is there are other
12 options and that farmers don't necessarily be
13 locked into it. I'm not making judgments here one
14 way or the other about small operations versus
15 large ones, but I think the more options we have
16 for farmers, the more choices they have that
17 ultimately adds up to a good thing for our society,
18 so I thank you.

19 MS. OSBORNE: I think you're right.

20 MR. CARLIN: Thank you very much.