

**RESPECTFUL PETITION** *(As presented by A Council Scribe):*

**To Whomsoever May Have Power Over These Things:**

We have, during the course of our latest assembly, using the oldest and most authoritative sources, manuscripts and oral histories, made myriad calculations, some of which are as follows:

1. Number of species we have ever rendered extinct through greed (of all sorts), displays of aggressive machismo or procurement of bogus medicines:

**None**

2. Number of rivers or oceans we have ever polluted with plastics, industrial slurry or other such abominations:

**None**

3. Number of fossil fuels we have ever burned to near exhaustion and noxious chemicals we have ever belched skywards:

**None**

4. Number of football pitches of woodland we have ever obliterated in one day:

**None**

There are many more such examples, but the above will suffice for the purposes of this petition.

In the light of these calculations, we would like to request that the terms **PESTS** and **VERMIN** be either:

1. defined in terms of destruction caused to our planet rather than inconvenience caused to the human race

or, better still:

2. removed from the language altogether.

With sincerest regards,

Representatives of the Council of Seagulls, Pigeons, Rats, Mice, Cockroaches et al

**Stephen Barnaby**