

# Do not sign this statement

Working late into the night, Daszak & Karesh (EHA) finish their draft of the Lancet Statement and send it around the cohort:

*From: Daszak Feb 6, 2020, 12:43 am*

*To: **Ralph Baric**    CC: (redacted - we can assume): Hume Field, Linfa Wang, Billy Karesh, Linda Saif, Jim Hughes (Rita Colwell was added later) (all EHA accredited *Bat Packers*)*

*Please review the letter and let me know if you are willing to join Billy Karesh and myself as co-signatories. Also please confirm your title and affiliation that will be shown in the letter.*

Linfa has gone this far, he's likely the one who requested, verbally framed the letter with Daszak, but he's not stupid. He knows *my work is done* - it's time to quietly step off the ship. He's a designer - not a signer.

The email arrives at 12:43 am - so late at night. Linfa reads it - it's got the right points but in Pete's florid style. Then he reads the last line:

*We declare **no competing interests***

Linfa calls Daszak immediately on the Bat Phone - advises Daszak & Baric **not** to sign either.

He's smart enough not to record his input in writing\*, but unfortunately Pete isn't:

*From: Peter Daszak    Sent: Thurs, Feb 6, 2020, 3:16 pm*

*To: Baric, Ralph    CC: (as above)*

**Subject:** *No need for you to sign the "Statement" Ralph!!*

*I spoke with **Linfa** last night about the statement we sent round. **He thinks**, and **I agree with him**, that you, me and him **should not sign this statement**, so it has some distance from us and therefore doesn't work in a counterproductive way.*

*Jim Hughes, Linda Saif, Hume Field, and I believe Rita Colwell will sign it, then **I'll send it round some other key people tonight**. We'll then put it out in a way that doesn't link it back to our collaboration so we maximize an independent voice.*

*Cheers,*

*Peter*

So this is Linfa trying to talk sense into Daszak on the phone the night before. Don't sign it - we'll get busted. We have huge COI's. We're too close. It will *link back* to us.

Baric gets it straight away. Fires back an email within the hour:

*From: Baric, Ralph      Sent: Thurs, Feb 6, 2020, 4:01 pm*

*To: **Peter Daszak***

***Subject:** Re: No need for you to sign the "Statement" Ralph!!*

*I also think this is a **good decision**. Otherwise it looks self-serving and we lose impact. **ralph***

*It will look self-serving - which it totally is - it's counter productive. What we need to do is: cover our tracks lest it *links back* to us. Everyone's agreed.*

So imagine Linfa's horror when Daszak goes ahead and signs it anyways!

That's gotta be vanity from our man Pete - didn't want to miss out on the Celebrity Scientist publicity ride.

Daszak (along with Lipkin representing Prox-O) then went on to become the *voice* of the no-lab-leak cohort, tirelessly working the media to promote the Lancet Statement and vilify the conspiracy theorists.

The Guardian came to the party by publishing one Pete's peak-weird diatribes at the height of his fame. (critiqued on Formosahut, Dec 2020)

It was this addiction to the limelight - vanity - that would largely contribute to the unraveling of the *No-lab-leak offensive* - exactly as Linfa had tried to warn it would.