

# Exhibit 4

## Declaration of Mike Hanauer

**DECLARATION OF MIKE HANAUER**

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I hereby declare as follows:

1. My Name is Mike Hanauer. I live in Carlisle, Massachusetts. I have lived here for 19 years. Previous to that, I lived in Lexington, Massachusetts.
2. I graduated from college with a BS in electrical engineering, with additional training in psychology, computers, and systems engineering from the University of Massachusetts in Lowell. I obtained an MS in Engineering Management from Northeastern University. This all gave me a broad perspective of what I like to call “overarching issues” – those few issues that spawn so many other symptomatic problems. I have come to believe that paying more attention to overarching issues is the only way we can save ourselves, our nation, and our planet because the symptoms are too numerous and too expensive to solve by themselves. I believe that the growing population overwhelms the efforts of fixing those symptoms effectively. I believe that true sustainability should be a major goal of all environment organizations, and that population growth (led largely by immigration) in the overarching issue of the century.
3. I have done a good deal of traveling, both in the U.S. and in North America, Europe and other places. Some of that travel has been by motor vehicle, and much has also been by bicycle touring. I have had a chance to see and compare many lands and cultures from a social and environmental perspective.

4. I love the outdoors and believe that time spent in the natural world is vital to my health, both physically and mentally. Without nature, we are all more likely to face addiction to artificial means such as drugs, alcohol, and even smart phones and the internet. These addictions have profound individual and societal implications.

5. In both my local and distant travels, especially in my home country of the United States, I have noted over the years a steady decline in the nature of nature—i.e. the environment. At first I blamed the developers and the cities and towns for the increased traffic, pollution, litter, loss of open spaces, and loss of safety. Then I saw the overarching issue of our growing overpopulation—all of these increased obstacles to a good quality life were about accommodating always more and more people. Our culture of eternal growth is killing us and is a primary cause of most of our problems.

6. I gradually saw the problem as “an escape from authentic sustainability,” with growing population being its main cause. A little research taught me that sustainability is achieved when the human economy fits within the capacity provided by Earth’s ecosystems. Growth, including “smart growth” which is meant to accommodate still more people, even when energy efficient, does not contribute to sustainability because it still adds to our overall impact.

7. Upon seeing the unmistakable need to address population growth—and learning that for the past 30 years most of U.S. population growth is due to immigration—starting in about 1980, I became involved in a number of organizations that deal with the issue. Within this, I have been a sustainability, climate change, and population activist for over twenty-five years. I have served as a climate action coordinator, has been co-chair of the New England Coalition for Sustainable Population and chair of Zero Population Growth of Greater Boston. I have also

served as a Director on the National Board of Zero Population Growth (now Population Connection). I currently serve as a Director of “GrowthBusters.org” and have authored a number of articles on the relationships between population growth, consumption, and environment including “OverPopulation and OverConsumption: Where should we focus” published by Negative Population Growth.

8. My town of Carlisle, Massachusetts tries to retain its semi-rural character even in light of major growth. It is a losing battle because the growth overwhelms all we try to do. This results always in more lost open space, more traffic, and more trash. Natural aesthetics are bulldozed over, natural habitats are surrounded by seas of concrete, and the plastic carcasses of trash accumulate in ponds and in bushes. My enjoyment of Carlisle’s nature from a recreational angle and atheistic angle is severely and consistently threatened.

9. According to the Global Footprint Network, the USA—at 330 million, yet adding a “Chicago” to our overpopulated population each year mostly via immigration—now has at least double a sustainable population to sustain even a European lifestyle.<sup>1</sup>

10. In science, there is a heuristic rule of thumb called the “20-80” rule which states that 20% of underlying problems often cause 80% of the significant effects. In the case of the U.S., population, as an overarching issue is a major cause and perhaps the biggest single cause of our environmental problems. We must act on this overpopulation and its biggest cause, immigration, to save some sort of functioning natural environment, biodiversity, and wild ecosystems for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.

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<sup>1</sup> *National Footprint and Biocapacity Accounts 2019 Public Data Package*, FOOTPRINT NETWORK, (2019), <https://www.footprintnetwork.org>

11. Overpopulation has many additional social impacts as well. Wilderness, quiet, privacy and the need for occasional solitude are important to individuals in a civilized society. These are all things we lose as the population expands and takes up more habitat. More than simply concern for an excessive ecological footprint, we need wild spaces and living space to nurture our spirit.

12. Pushing people together also perpetuates a loss of personal freedom. Just because we can live in a small cluster home, survive with more traffic, cope with more regulations or tolerate a government with a more diluted political representation does not mean that we should. How long can our society tolerate ever increasing population? Don't we want a quality of life for ourselves and future generations that is much better than just tolerable?

13. Conflict and stresses are much more likely when people are pushed closer together. When we are in a denser environment, our neighbor's actions have a more adverse impact upon us. We are forced to limit our actions with respect to the rights of others, to put up with losing some rights, or having additional regulations to enforce our rights. This conundrum is further aggravated as resources become scarcer.

14. This population growth, due now almost entirely to immigration, has impacted me personally in a number of ways, often resulting in higher expenses and lowered quality of life. Undeveloped areas are much harder to find in Massachusetts and those remaining open spaces are constantly more crowded. Pristine wild habitat, where I used to love to walk, observe nature, and hike is being turned into housing, shopping malls, schools and just plain ugly sprawl. I find this, frankly, quite sad. How much longer can this continued disconnect from

nature continue? Having adequate open space for recreation is essential to my physical and mental health; population growth impinges on this.

15. When I do have the chance to walk and hike in the woods, I almost invariably notice a considerable increase in trails trampled, litter, trail wear, and crowding. Further, the decrease in wildlife and variety of vegetation in proximity to these trails quite notable and disappointing. It is one thing for a species to live near a trail when it is more sparsely traversed; it is much more difficult for species to live and co-exist near trails when they are jammed packed. Again, to enjoy hikes where I see substantial wildlife, I need to drive much farther to get to these places, which are often inconveniently located.

16. On a larger level, national and state parks used to serve as a strong representation of “Americana.” As a child, I used to love the feeling of freedom and oneness with nature I experienced at various national and state parks. Now, the places are ridiculously packed—with often tour busses, traffic jams, and legions of tourists—I have to schedule my visits to many of them now during undesirable parts of the year just to get a semblance of the experience I once felt as a child. Trails and roads are much more used and litter prone. I find it ridiculous that I am required to get into a long queue to enter or exit a park; some parks even reach capacity before 10 AM. Others require reservations a month or even a year ahead of time. Campsites are now often almost on top of each other. Many of our national parks I once enjoyed have become veritable amusement parks where nature is viewed from afar rather than being an immersive experience. This is saddening.

17. The COVID-19 pandemic has provided yet an additional perspective on the increased crowding I feel. As population increases, it becomes always more difficult to distance and prevent the spread of contagions. This makes me always more hesitant to venture out.

18. Bicycling too is an important part of how I mitigate the stresses of life and get enjoyable exercise—but roads are more congested and more dangerous every year. Even when I attempt to take my bike recreation out of the city, bike trails are now often as dangerous as the roads because of overpopulation which results on heavy congestion. It was not always this way! Part of biking to me is the enjoyment of isolating myself in the “zone” or my own thoughts. This allows me mental headspace to recharge and rejuvenate myself. This is certainly much more difficult to do when I have to consistently dodge other bikers on crowded trails.

19. I live in a wooded neighborhood, but development is rampant because of pressure for always more housing. This increases traffic and decreases nature. In general, it also decays the character of the area and quality of life. I enjoy seeing biodiversity and forested areas near my residence, though they are steadily disappearing. The aesthetics of the area have frequently traded green nature for grey concrete to great detriment. The pressure to always grow, accommodating always more people, results in always more financial pressures to build roads, schools. This puts extra burden on me as a taxpayer.

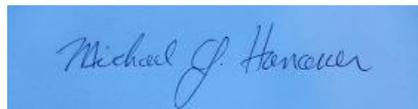
22. I notice too that the more growth that occurs, the worse I know my neighbors. I have come to believe that quantity is the enemy of quality. The U.S. population is now at 330 million. When I was born, it was 140 million. Census Bureau projections indicate that our population is likely to surpass one-half billion in the coming century if we do not take note. Important analysis and calculations from the biological and physical sciences support the contention that

U.S. population is now at over double the sustainable level. Attainable reductions in consumption will not do the job if we do not also stop population growth. We all want a truly sustainable world which can support a reasonable standard of living with reasonable levels of consumption for all. Population growth is important in itself, and in its effect on overall consumption growth. In the long term, stopping population growth is a necessary part of the sustainability equation.<sup>2</sup>

24. In summary, because immigration is the biggest single cause of our population growth, because we now double our population about every 65 years because of that immigration, and because we cannot stop environmental degradation and become an authentically sustainable nation without considering immigration, I believe the Department of Homeland Security must, for both legal and moral reasons, evaluate its recommendations and actions in light of the National Environmental Policy Act.

1. 25. I hereby declare under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 19<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2020.



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Michael G. Hanauer

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<sup>2</sup> See Mike Hanauer, SUSTAINABLE POPULATION: A NECESSARY ELEMENT IN ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE 'GOOD LIFE' IN THE U.S. AND BEYOND, <https://www.worldpopulationbalance.org/articles/sustainable-population-necessary-element-achieving-sustainable-good-life-us-and-beyond>. Some of the above points are from my paper which has been utilized in a number of college courses. I suggest reading this four-page paper for further details on how much U.S. overpopulation is impacting us and how important it is to stem this growth.