

June 3, 2021

BRIEF CONCERNING BILL C-205, AN Act to Amend the Health of Animals Act

Canadians for Animal Protection opposes Bill C-205 on the basis that it comprises “ag-gag” legislation, intended to silence animal welfare advocates.

Section 9.1 is redundant because each province already has legislation against trespassing, and it is already illegal to harm or poison animals under both federal and provincial law.

In fact, trespassing is within the exclusive jurisdiction of the provinces. The Bill may therefore be struck down as unconstitutional for this reason.

There is no known instance of an animal welfare advocate contaminating a farm. Diseases are typically caused and spread by poor farming practices. For example, mad cow disease was spread by putting dead diseased animals into the feed of livestock.

The failure of government to regulate and enforce animal welfare standards creates a need for undercover investigators to document and publicize conditions on farms and in slaughterhouses.

The public has a legitimate interest in knowing how their meat is produced. The raising and processing of animals for food takes place behind closed doors with no meaningful government oversight.

Advocates therefore fulfill an important role in informing the public of conditions that would otherwise remain secret, including the unhygienic conditions in which food animals are sometimes raised, and the suffering that farm animals are forced to endure.

It is apparent that Bill C-205 has nothing to do with protecting biosecurity on farms, and everything to do with the suppression of animal welfare activists.

Respectfully submitted by Canadians for Animal Protection per:

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