

This bill has many problems. For starters it is addressing an issue that doesn't exist, that it is trespassers who cause disease or contamination in the animals on a farm. There has never been a case where a disease outbreak or any contamination has occurred due to an outsider trespassing on the farm. All incidents have been caused by the farm workers, the poor conditions the animals are kept in, unsafe veterinary methods, encounters with wild animals or harmful feed.

Furthermore it is already illegal to trespass on private property and it is already illegal to harm animals.

Another concern with this bill is that it obscures the real problems of biosecurity. By putting the focus on trespassers it implies that farming practices are not the cause of e coli, salmonella, Mad Cow, h1n1, covid-19 etc. when in fact they are they are the only cause. Instead of focusing outward the federal government should focus on the actual cause of these threats and better regulate the conditions of the animals on the farms. As it stands now there is no regulation on farming practices. Regulation only occurs when animals are in transport or being slaughtered, leaving public health and safety up to the farms themselves.

Another issue with this bill is that it creates an atmosphere of fear and doubt in the public of the farming industry. Why this lack of transparency? Why does the industry and our government want to prosecute people who see and share what they see on our nation's farms. If the industry and the government are proud of how our meat, poultry and fish come to our tables and of how the fur and wool industry raises the animals that go into making our sweaters, scarves, coats, boots, shoes etc., why fines of 250,000-500,000 dollars for people who simply witness the living conditions and treatment of these animals? Why not allay the public's concerns of animal welfare with openness and transparency instead of introducing a new bill that will increase them?

Lastly, the bill is overly broad. The mere act of anyone entering anywhere who could possibly introduce anything that could be remotely capable of affecting an animal is p.

So a child who walks through a puddle as she wanders onto a farm to pet the cows could introduce a contaminate.

And how does the trespasser prove it was not them that caused the farm to become contaminated? Under this broad a scope it would be near impossible.

This bill is so broad as to be useless.

So not only the bill too broad, it covers legislation already in place.

This bill is simply a ploy of the farming industry to obscure the fact that it is normal operating procedures that threaten the public's health not the one off trespasser who is trying to expose the poor conditions and practices that lead to the outbreaks in the first place.

Please do not pass Bill C-205.