

To the Committee Deliberating Bill C-205,

I am very concerned about the scope of this bill. As someone who is concerned about the welfare of animals, this bill seems aimed to stifle an effective form of documenting animal cruelty: undercover documentation. Many of the overly punitive measures in this bill would issue harsher sentences and fines to people who tried to obtain undercover footage than it would to those who actually perpetrate horrific acts of abuse. This speaks volumes to the priority of this bill. It is clearly a special interest bill attempting to stifle animal welfare advocates from exposing the rampant abuses occurring within many of these industries. This is very troubling from an ethical perspective.

To date, there have been absolutely *zero* cases of zoonotic disease transmission from undercover investigations. To my knowledge no animals have been poisoned by animal advocates and the food supply has never been compromised. On the other hand, we have seen *many* cases of zoonotic disease transmissions from the unsanitary conditions of farms; particularly intensive or factory farms. Instead of treating the underlying cause of most of our zoonotic diseases, this bill seems to scapegoat well-meaning activists whose concern is environmental and animal welfare. If we really wanted to end this cycle of zoonotic disease transmission the government should be advocating dismantling as many forms of animal agriculture as possible. Not giving them further secrecy.

The other concerns about this bill stem simply from the redundancy of it. There are already trespass laws in place to prevent unwelcomed persons from entering a property. There are already laws prohibiting giving noxious substances to animals. So this argument that giving water to dehydrated pigs in transport as being a harmful thing is patently wrong. The fact that Canada has some of the worst animal transport regulations in the country is what this government should be addressing. Not punishing compassionate people for giving dying animals water.

Finally, this bill is simply unconstitutional. People have constitutional rights to be able to document what goes on from public land. People have the right to seek employment for any variety of motives; including but not limited to the care for animals and documenting such conditions. These are governed by our rights to peacefully protest and freedom of assembly. This bill is simply a legal challenge waiting to happen and it will cost taxpayers a lot of money. Please ensure this bill ends before it comes to this.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these points.

Sincerely,

Chris Grant
New Maryland, NB