

The supporters of Bill C-205 insist that it is designed to protect the biosecurity of our food sources. Yet, we already have laws that accomplish this. In fact, it has been the poor and inhumane treatment of our farm animals by the agricultural industry that has propagated diseases, not the incursions of animal activists. The bill's proponents state that they aren't against protesting, but it should be done by "someone with a lawful reason for being on a farm, like a farm employee, who sees something that is concerning or is not up to standard should absolutely take the opportunity to raise the issue with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency or their employer.... [John Barlow]." In most cases these employees are seasonal, foreign workers. It is difficult to imagine any of them reporting their employer.

The real intent of Bill C-205 is to prevent the public from learning about cruelty to farm animals and demanding more humane conditions. What newspaper or animal advocacy group would be willing to incur a fine of \$500,000 to trespass on a factory farm! If the government intends to stifle animal advocacy, it must also create a companion bill that details acceptable and unacceptable treatment of farm animals and creates a significant inspection force. Let me conclude with this question: how large should the fine be for killing undersized piglets by smashing them against the ground, or for not providing water for animals being transported to their death?

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