

## Comments on the Superfluous and Deleterious Nature of Bill C-205

By Matthew Helgeson

Hello, my name is Matthew Helgeson and I am writing today to express my concern of the amendment to the Health of Animals Act after section 9, named Bill C-205. This bill, if passed, would restrict and create undue complications to a system of laws which already prohibits the type of behavior the bill proposes to make illegal. As is already known, Bill C-205 aims to limit entry into places of livestock or farms for the purpose of ensuring against possible exposure of the animals to disease or toxic substance (Barlow). As previously alluded to however, there are already laws in place which prohibit unlawful entry into farms, as well as laws which prohibit the poisoning or any other harm to animals in Canada (Criminal Code)(Hardeman)(Ganley)(Trespass Act). There are also laws in place, which, seek to prohibit the public from viewing the conditions on farms in Canada in many provinces such as Alberta, Ontario, British Columbia, Manitoba, Quebec, and Prince Edward Island (Fighting Canada's). Given the conditions within animal farms in Canada, there seems to be more of a risk associated with the internal operations when it comes to diseases and contamination. Whistleblowers have already exposed serious health threats for the public, as well workplace safety problems at slaughterhouses and factory farms. These conditions at factory farms are even a concern for scientists with regard to new zoonotic diseases (Fighting Canada's). Moreover, multiple modern diseases have been affected by factory farms, such as: E. coli, MRSA, Campylobacter and Salmonella, and Mad Cow (Nickelsburg). Therefore, in lieu of the reasons listed above, it is redundant and even dangerous to pass bill C-205 into law. We need to address the issues with factory farming itself, not create legislation that will bar the public from knowing the risks and serious issues they pose to the world at large, which is exactly what this bill seems to want, given it's broad terminology and punishment, which would implicate anyone willing or able to expose the conditions of factory farms in Canada (the bill calls for up to six months in prison and fines of up to \$250,000 for individuals or fines of up to \$500,000 for organizations)(Fighting Canada's).

In short, I am asking that the bill not be passed into law. There are already such laws in place, and creating another such law with as large of fines and broad of terminology seems directed solely at individuals willing to expose the unsafe and inhumane conditions at factory farms, which the farms themselves seem bent on covering up. Thank you very much for your time. Take care and have a wonderful day.

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