

Please accept this letter as my opposition to Bill C-205.

In light of recent investigations, it has come to the public's attention that conditions in animal farms, like the one at Paragon, featured on CTV's W5, <https://www.ctvnews.ca/w5/undercover-footage-from-ontario-pig-farm-shows-alleged-abuse-but-new-laws-may-ban-future-probes-1.5207579> show unhygienic and barbarous conditions. Bill C-205 implies that activists and the like are the ones causing biohazards, where in fact, there has not been one case of this matter – the biohazards exist already, in factory and industrial farms.

In fact, in this particular investigation there were maggots and mold found, amongst rampant animal abuse.

The way to solve these issues is not to prevent people from finding out about them - which is exactly what Ag Gag laws like this one do. If restaurants across the country were found to be infested with bacteria, maggots and disease due to poor hygienic practices, investigating them would not be made illegal.

We would implement more oversight on the industry overall.

But this is not the only occasion in which conditions like these were found. In fact, across Canada, there have been photojournalists like Jo-Anne McArthur (from We Animals Media), who have shared grotesque conditions in any farm they stepped foot in.

These Ag Gag laws are pulling the curtains closed on what happens in what people consider, their food industry.

A large concern now, again due to the condition of any animal farm – whether it is for “food” or fur for example – is the existence of antibiotic resistant bacteria. A new study from World Animal Protection found this to be a fact with “all 90 samples tested returned a positive result for at least 1 resistance gene”.

The argument made is that activists, photojournalists and the like are contaminating sites, but we can already deduce these sites are already contaminated. The activists are there to witness and share to the world, the conditions which many are unaware of. And again, there hasn't been a single case of an activist causing biohazards.

To also note, the Criminal Code already addresses the illegality of harming an animal or poisoning them whilst trespassing – so Bill C-205 is redundant.

The solution is within reach – simply set the proper standards for factory farms, with a “glass window” for the public to see and understand, and no one will ever feel the need to go in, or question the actions or lack thereof, in factory and industrial farms.

Thank you,

Ina Maria Toncescu