

Senate Bill 186 Gives Factory Farms Special Status in Indiana Law

Senate Bill 186 is being promoted as a way to protect farmer's rights. In reality, this bill puts the interests of big farmers above those of other Hoosiers. It is completely unnecessary and puts other property owners, our environment and rural communities at risk. Granting factory farms special protection in state law will put an end to local control, taking away to the ability of local communities to pass local ordinances that protect their interests. No industry should have special protections in the law. Many Hoosiers who live in close proximity to factory farms are already suffering from their effects.

There is no need for Senate Bill 186. Farmers already have the right under our federal and state constitutions to engage in farming and choose their farming practices. Farmers, like all other Hoosiers, have the right to engage in their chosen professions/trades/businesses. Not only is there no legitimate reason for this legislation, but agribusiness already enjoys enhanced legal protection and privileges under **Indiana's Right to Farm Act**, which limits the circumstances under which a farm can be deemed a nuisance.

If this bill continues to move forward, it means that more families living in rural areas will be forced to endure the noxious odors and pollution created by a neighboring factory farm, with limited ability to seek relief in court. Why should factory farms be allowed to disrupt the quality of life in rural Indiana without any accountability?

Senate Bill 186 is already moving to the House, so it is on its way to becoming law. It will take a huge outcry from Indiana citizens to stop this outrageous attempt by agribusiness to protect itself at the expense of the rest of us.

Contact your State Senators and Representatives and urge them to protect local control and the public interest by opposing SB186. Tell them Indiana needs stronger regulations over factory farms to protect property values, public health, and the environment; we certainly don't need to give them a legal shield to defend themselves when neighbors and communities fight back.

Take Action Now!!!

Call, write, or e-mail your State Senator and Representative, as well as Gov. Pence, and tell them to protect the interests of all Hoosiers by OPPOSING Senate Bill 186!

To look up and/or e-mail your legislators, visit: <http://iga.in.gov>

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After Being Defeated Last Year, “Ag Gag” Legislation Is Back: Senate Bill 101 Threatens Our Right to Know!

Last year, a coalition of consumers, farmers, free speech and civil liberties advocates, animal welfare activists, environmentalists and union leaders defeated Senate Bill 373, the whistleblower suppression “**Ag-Gag**” bill. Unfortunately, this bad public policy has resurfaced this year. As introduced by Senator Travis Holdman, Senate Bill 101, the 2014 version of Ag-Gag, would have had a similar chilling effect on the public’s right to know how our food is produced and processed. In its original form, this bill would have made it a crime to expose illegal or unethical practices at farms in Indiana.

We’ve won the first round! On January 21, SB101 was amended in committee to delete the anti-whistleblower and anti-transparency language we are worried about. Unfortunately, this battle is not over. SB101 is now moving to the House of Representatives, and the anti-consumer language could still be amended back into the legislation. Keep posted for updates as the session progresses.

SB101 is a pre-emptive attempt by big agriculture to stop investigative reports that have exposed unsafe, illegal, and unethical practices that are common in industrial agriculture. As introduced, this bill is an assault on many fundamental values shared by all people across the state of Indiana, including the right to know where our food comes from and how it is produced. It is a threat to animal welfare, food safety, and free speech; and it must be defeated.

Please contact your State Senator and Representative and urge them to oppose any attempt to limit the public’s right to know how our food is produced.



Take Action Now!!!

Call, write, or e-mail your State Senator and Representative, as well as Gov. Pence, and tell them to protect our Right to Know by OPPOSING Senate Bill 101!

To look up and/or e-mail your legislators, visit: <http://iga.in.gov>

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