

SENATE BILL 391



Eliminates Protections for Farm Animals – would jeopardize all existing county and local health ordinances on factory farms that protect the welfare of farm animals and would prohibit any future health ordinances.

Endangers the Environment – would prohibit County Commissioners and County Health Boards from enacting ordinances to safeguard the environment from the negative impacts of corporate-controlled industrial livestock operations.

Encourages Pollution – would prohibit counties from regulating the disposal of waste from factory farms so as to prevent the pollution of streams, waterways, as well as neighboring public and private property. SB 391 seeks to allow the disposal of manure within 50 feet from property lines and 300 feet from water sources. Seeks to eliminate all air quality standards for farms with less than 17,500 hogs, 7,000 cattle, and 875,000 chickens.

Opens Up Missouri to More Foreign Livestock Operations at the Expense of Missouri Family Farms – the majority of large factory farms in Missouri are foreign owned/controlled or operated by out-of-state agricultural entities who do not want to comply with local safeguards.

Promotes Factory Farms Over Small Family Farms – In these industrial-sized livestock operations, thousands of farm animals are typically confined in extremely cramped quarters 24/7; the animals never see the light of day or receive more than a minimal amount of care and are frequently subjected to abusive practices.

Missouri is Ground Zero for Corporate Agriculture – Missouri is one of the few remaining agricultural states that still permits County Commissioners and County Health Boards to regulate factory farms. In fact, all 8 states contiguous to Missouri prohibit local control of factory farms. As a result, many large foreign corporations and out-of-state agricultural entities have been unable to expand their operations into Missouri as they are unwilling to comply with health and environmental ordinances. In fact, factory farms have caused so-much pollution and rampant disease in neighboring states, that they are seeking to move to a more welcoming environment where they will, no doubt, spread their pollution and disease.

It is these foreign owned and out-of-state livestock operations that are lobbying and seeking to pass SB 391. Missouri is one of the last states standing up to the excesses of foreign-owned corporate agriculture.

SB 391 Removes Local Control – currently, county officials can regulate factory farms to protect the public health, the environment, and even the welfare of the animals confined in such industrialized farms. SB 391 seeks to remove any restrictions on abusive practices.