
From: Kaitlin Knox <[REDACTED]>
Sent: September 22, 2018 8:31 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 27

Dear Honourable Keith Colwell,

I am writing to you regarding Bill 27 concerning the Animal Protection Act. My husband and I own and manage 2 cow-calf operations in Antigonish county, as well as a small horse breeding program. We take biosecurity and animal welfare very seriously. We are enrolled in the Canadian Verified Beef Production Plus and we take every measure possible to ensure that our 400+ animals are healthy, well cared for and handled in the most humane way possible. I understand that this bill is not directed at operations such as ours, and I would like all those who neglect and abuse animals to be brought to justice, however I believe that this bill has the potential to do more harm than good from a biosecurity standpoint.

When veterinarians, salesmen, buyers, truckers and visitors come to our facilities, we require that they change and/or disinfect their footwear and tools. When new cattle and horses enter the premises we require proof of vaccination (generally a 5-way vaccine) or we refuse said animals. When we travel to other operations, whether locally or abroad, we change and disinfect our footwear before leaving and before returning to our barns. We take the health of our animals, our livelihood and our industries very seriously. Through the gross violation of privacy proposed by bill 27 of a peace officer having more rights and power than a police officer, we fear that our biosecurity and our industry may be at risk. I am sure you are aware of animal rights activists making false accusations against farmers. It would only take one peace officer of the wrong mindset under this bill to completely destroy a small family farm and what remains of the agriculture industry in Nova Scotia.

We have had a terrible experience regarding an animal control officer in the past. The local officer drove past our farm, saw a puppy that we recently bought in our driveway while we were working, took the dog off our property back to their kennel, where a sick dog had recently been. Our puppy was not finished his vaccinations and contracted canine parvovirus. Not only did we have to pay for the release of the dog but we then paid nearly \$2000 in veterinary bills to treat him over the course of several weeks. This is one example of inappropriate misuse of power and terrible conditions of a facility that the government should have been monitoring more closely. Our concerns about poor biosecurity of animal officers are legitimate and with frequent outbreaks of equine strangles in the province as well as the delicate health of our new born foals and calves, we cannot risk unauthorized persons entering the property without following our biosecurity measures.

Our family is proud of what we do. We work extremely hard, we put in long days every day to ensure our livestock are cared for and we feel that this bill is a violation of our privacy, our biosecurity, our rights as farmers and as Canadians. I understand that this bill is being revisited after backlash from a recent meeting but I wanted to provide you with some concerns from a cattle producers standpoint. We will also be contacting the Nova Scotia Cattle Producers board regarding these concerns.

Best Regards,

Kaitlin Knox, MSc.

Winterwind Kigers

Carrondale Cattle Company Inc.

Nova Scotia, Canada



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