

**INQUIRY INTO PROVISIONS OF THE RIGHT TO FARM
BILL 2019**

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

At a time where corporate power and profit dictates what is publicly disclosed and what is not, there has never been a more urgent time to ensure transparency of industry practises. The general public and the consumer is entitled to know what is intentionally hidden and manipulated for gain, particularly if they are supporting this system through purchasing power. Where there is a conflict of interest and where the living conditions and lives of sentient beings hang in the balance, the details of the principles, practices and standards inflicted on animals in all industries and houses of business must be available for public scrutiny. Agricultural gag laws that seek to silence activists and whistleblowers from making reports about law breaking and animal cruelty is fraudulent, barbaric and manipulative and serves only to ensure the unregulated continuation of such practices in addition to providing protection to the offenders. Such protections are not granted to any other business that seeks financial gain and nor should the agricultural industries or family farm be exempt from the full force of the law should they be caught engaging in illegal or cruel activity. The reporting of illegal activity or practices that are inherently cruel or painful, destructive, deceptive or manipulative should be a first step in ensuring the wellbeing of animals and the land from where they have been raised. For this, we need whistle blowers and activists to expose what they discover to allow for improved care of all animals including the humans that are often exploited in these profit driven operations. There is a great need for undercover investigators employed by an independent animal protection agency... but because there is no such organisation free of a conflict of interest at this time, then whistle blowers and activists must be supported in their roles using public money to fund them.