



MISSOURI ALLIANCE FOR ANIMAL LEGISLATION
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Unregulated factory farms not only pose dangers in Arkansas but could be coming to Missouri next



While the St. Louis Post-Dispatch opines on the environmental dangers from a proposed giant hog farm in Arkansas where such operations have little regulations, this should serve as a wake-up call for us here in Missouri. Every legislative session in Jefferson City, there are serious attempts to roll back the authority of county health boards to regulate large factory farms which endanger the public's health, the environment, and the welfare of the animals confined in such facilities.

This past session, the Legislature came very close to opening up Missouri to the same abuses that are looming in Arkansas. Some members of the Legislature even tried to lure animal welfare

groups into supporting such legislation by offering, in return, the removal of license fees on animal shelters and rescues. While such taxes are grossly unfair to those non-profit groups that house homeless animals, the Missouri Alliance for Animal Legislation refused to withdraw its opposition to removing needed oversight of large industrial factory farms. With the help of a handful of legislators, we were fortunately able to defeat such legislation. We need to remain vigilant, however, as it is certain that such legislation will return next year since numerous corporate farms are ready to move into Missouri once regulations are lifted.

Special thanks this year to Senators Jolie Justus, Rob Schaaf, Maria Chappelle-Nadal, Paul LeVota and Representatives Gina Mitten and Chris Kelly for their successful efforts in opposing legislation to remove regulations on factory farms here in Missouri. Rep. Kelly told the Missouri Times that defeating the legislation to weaken regulations on factory farms was one of his major achievements this year in Jefferson City.

Article link:

http://www.stltoday.com/news/opinion/columns/arkansas-troubled-buffalo-river-like-the-current-needs-attention/article_a3c4ea5a-f0c0-5e5b-891a-b786256e3e0d.html

Letter to the Editor link:

http://www.stltoday.com/news/opinion/mailbag/letters-to-the-editor/be-wary-of-attempts-to-remove-oversight-of-factory-farms/article_58f9b694-d63c-5567-83d6-50d8aa9e4848.html