

## Governor Nixon Vetoes HB 1713



### *Veto considered a victory against factory farms*

HB 1713 was intended to weaken the authority of the Missouri Clean Water Commission in its efforts to regulate factory farms. As originally introduced, this bill would have substantially reduced the power of the Commission to protect against abuses of industrial farms. During a contentious battle in the Senate, the Alliance was able to persuade legislators to amend HB 1713 so as to fully protect the authority of the Clean Water Commission.

The legislation still contained a provision, however, that had the potential to dilute the make-up of the Commission by allowing a future governor to appoint additional representatives of factory farms onto the Commission.

Governor Nixon in his veto letter stated that **“the change to the Missouri Clean Water Commission membership is a blatant attempt to limit public oversight in favor of regulated interests and, for that reason, House Bill No. 1713 cannot receive my approval.”**



*Governor Nixon's veto will help stop the expansion of cruel factory farms in Missouri*

HB 1713 arose when a large corporate pork producer from Minnesota attempted to establish a shell corporation to operate a factory farm in Grundy County, Missouri that planned to house 6,000 pigs. The Clean Water Commission denied the shell corporation a permit due to concerns that a shell

corporation would lack the assets necessary to indemnify against any resulting environmental or public health disasters. In response to this defeat, the factory farming industry sought out legislators at the Missouri Capitol in an attempt to pass legislation to strip away the Commission's authority so more large industrial farms could open up in Missouri.

HB 1713 was just one of over 25 bills that were introduced in 2016 to weaken regulations on factory farms. Thankfully with your support we were able to defeat all of this harmful legislation and successfully protect the public health, the environment, and the welfare of the animals confined in factory farms.

The veto of HB 1713 was the final victory for the animals coming out of the 2016 legislative session. It will surely be contested in the Veto Session later this year as legislators representing factory farms will make an effort to overturn Governor Nixon's veto. ***We will keep you informed when it is time to contact your state senator on this issue in preparation for the veto session.***

### ***Breaking News***

Governor Nixon has also vetoed HB 1414 which is legislation that exempts information from public view that is voluntarily provided by farmers and ranchers concerning animal health and the environment. As originally introduced, HB 1414 would have prevented all information concerning animal health and the environment from the state's sunshine law and would have eliminated the ability to monitor conditions at Missouri's puppy mills via inspection reports. Originally, HB 1414 would have also eliminated the public disclosure of conditions at all animal sites in the state including factory farms. The Alliance was fortunately able to have HB 1414 amended so as to protect all information mandated by the state. Despite these changes, Governor Nixon felt it sent a bad precedent by weakening the state Sunshine law and vetoed the entire legislation.