

OPINION

Readers Say

Preserving family farms requires truth, not legislation

Dear Editor,

The current legislation in the Missouri Senate, Senate Bill 364, is all about what is wrong in today's farming. This bill camouflages itself behind the word "family," yet its directives would eliminate competition and burden local communities with large concentrated animal feeding operations, or CAFOs, that they will not be prepared for.

In addition, parts of this bill elimi-

nate the ability for a family to redress in court for a grievance caused by a CAFO. If a CAFO contaminates your water supply, causes your lifestyle to change tremendously, or causes injury to a family member, then you cannot sue. I thought the right to sue and redress was in our U.S. Constitution.

The truth is, these "nuisance" suits, as this proposed bill calls them, have been recognized in the past by the courts under the "first come, first serve" ideology. If the family farmers or rural

homeowners are there first, before the CAFO, then their rights should come first. If the CAFO was there first, their rights come before the homeowners.

How dare some legislators try to take away our rights guaranteed under the Constitution and then call anyone a fanatic for questioning this bill. This bill would support the large corporations that are in the back pockets of the lobbyists behind this bill. This bill would allow an open door into our rural areas without accountability or responsibility

to family farmers who have been there for more than 50 years; some of them are Century Farms.

Any discussion over such a delicate matter first requires the truth to be spoken, not the mass cover-up that large corporate agriculture has done with this bill. Please contact your state legislator and tell him to vote "no" on S.B. 364 to preserve the beauty and integrity of rural Missouri and support real family farmers.

Robert Scholz, Elmo

John Deere Dealers

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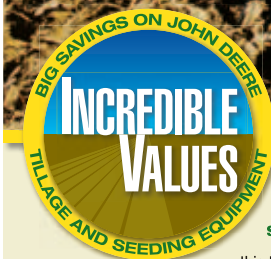
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