

Bill S. 45, which would offer factory farms in Vermont freedom from lawsuit if their practices polluted neighboring lands, is a product of Big Businesses from out of state. While it claims to protect small farms, it does nothing of the kind. The Big Business groups who back ALEC, the Project 2025 promulgators, have been working for more than a generation to eliminate small farms in favor of agribusiness operations. They have succeeded, to the detriment of our state and our own free enterprise system. There are 5 defunct dairy farms on my road alone.

Our problems will not be solved by the same people who profit from them!

Farm practices that are common, but polluting on a large scale, must not be allowed to continue, particularly chemicals that contaminate drinking water and harm the natural systems on which life depends.

Do not eliminate a person's right to sue if that person has been harmed by a non law-abiding farm. The EPA determined in 2024 that NONE of Vermont's factory farms were abiding by the Clean Water Act directives on discharges. If none of these farms are complying, then harm to neighbors is possible. Should those neighbors be deprived of the right to redress? Isn't this a basic American right? Are we to sit silent while our basic rights are being dismantled in order that Big Business can increase their wealth at our expense?

S.45 would add more damage and harm to the already beleaguered small farms in Vermont on which many, many of us depend.

Please do not vote for this bill.

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