

Rural Community Bill of Rights

WE THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF _____ BELIEVE THAT CERTAIN RIGHTS MUST BE UPHELD FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE OF _____. THESE RIGHTS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

1. The right to breathe clean air.
2. The right to safe drinking water.
3. The right to sustainable farming communities rooted in family farms and productive soils.
4. The right to democratically-led community development.
5. The right to stable property values.
6. The right to healthy wildlife habitat for conservation and sporting uses.
7. The right to the highest quality of life and public health possible.

Whereas large-scale livestock facilities threaten ground and surface water quality due to intensive concentration of animal waste,

whereas large-scale livestock facilities threaten water quantity due to the intensive demand for water by livestock consumption and waste removal,

whereas large-scale livestock facilities pose a threat to the productivity of farmland due to the over-application of animal waste,

whereas large-scale livestock facilities threaten property values of surrounding residences due to the noxious odor and the threat of water pollution and other nuisances, and

whereas vertically-integrated large-scale livestock facilities threaten independent family farms and the economic base for rural communities,

therefore be it resolved that we the undersigned urge the _____ General Assembly and the Governor of _____ to enact laws that strengthen the livestock management facilities act to protect the rights of rural communities to ensure that large-scale livestock facilities are not sited, constructed, or operated in a manner posing a threat to the public health, land, air, water, archeological sites, or wildlife.