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Dear Sirs

We write to you as persons who have no connection to Voiceless, Animal Liberation, AWLA, or Compassion in World Farming.

However, we note their advertisement in the *Australian* this morning concerning the proposed ag-gag laws.

I am bound to say that we are absolutely staggered by a piece of legislation, the clear intent of which is to protect industries practising animal cruelty from public exposure. It is clearly not intended to facilitate a reduction in animal cruelty but rather to gag those whose intent is to bring to the public attention gross abuses of animals through the *accumulation* of evidence of such practices over the longer or shorter term.

In giving the appearance of animal welfare by enforcing the reporting of such practices within 24 hours, it is obvious to all that this is merely a cynical exercise intended to keep the public in ignorance.

We urge you to oppose such cruel legislation.

Yours faithfully

Professor Philip Almond and Ms Patricia Lee.