



Environmental Racism in US Slaughterhouses

Chelsea Velez

Argument

- The location of slaughterhouses in marginalized communities, and the treatment of the workers that constitute the slaughterhouse workforce are forms of environmental racism.



Environmental Racism

“Environmental racism is the disproportionate impact of environmental hazards on people of color.”

- Location of slaughterhouses in predominantly Black and Brown communities
- Effects of slaughterhouses on communities:
 - Increased health problems
 - *E.coli, Salmonella, Campylobacter because of food contamination*
 - *Increased respiratory problems due to air and water pollution*



Worker Demographics

“Because many of the workers are undocumented [people of color] or have family members who are undocumented, fear of drawing attention to their immigration status prevents workers from seeking protection for their rights as workers from government authorities.” (Human Rights Watch)



Health/ Safety of Slaughterhouse Workers

- Health Problems within Slaughterhouses
- Increased Rates of Illnesses
 - *Lung cancers, influenza, Q Fever, reactions to harsh chemicals*

Results of High Speed Assembly Lines

- Accidental cuts
- Dull blades
- Improper training
- Repetitive motions that lead to musculoskeletal disorders
- No sick days, no health insurance, no ability to unionize



Break Violations

- Top 4 Poultry Producers were caught not giving breaks to their workers (2016)

FIGURE 4. FOUR COMPANIES, DOZENS OF BRANDS, HUNDREDS OF PRODUCTS

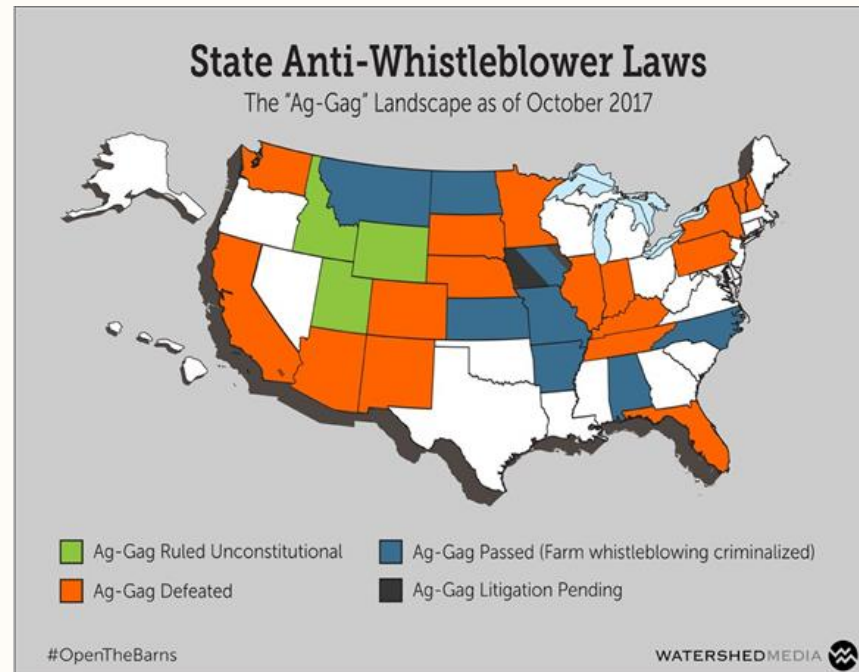


The top four companies produce hundreds of different chicken items and market them under many brand names.

Source: Web sites of Tyson Foods, Pilgrim's, Perdue, and Sanderson Farms.

Ways Corporations have Hidden Worker Rights Violations and Environmental Racism

- Ag-gag Laws:
 - Laws that criminalize the recording of any kind (including undercover photoaged) within animal agricultural facilities
 - Punishments: fines, misdemeanors, felonies



Solutions?

Governmental Regulations

- External inspections and worker right laws that extend to undocumented immigrants

What Employer's should do

- health insurance, paid time off, sick days, maintain equipment, and provide proper training on how to use equipment, ensure the workers can unionize

What we can do:

- Consumer Awareness
- Campaigns and Protests
- Don't consume animal products





Works Cited

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