



April 16, 2024

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chair, Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee 328-A Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable G.T. Thompson
Chair, House Agriculture Committee 1301 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boozman
Ranking Member, Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee 328-A Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Scott
Ranking Member, House Agriculture Committee 1010 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Re: The Ending Agriculture Trade Suppression Act

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow, Ranking Member Boozman, Chairman Thompson, and Ranking Member Scott:

We are state legislators from across the country and write to voice our strong opposition to S.2019/H.R.4417, the Ending Agricultural Trade Suppression (EATS) Act. If included in the 2024 Farm Bill, the EATS Act would ignore the will of voters, threaten hundreds of existing state laws, and infringe on the constitutional right of states to pass laws protecting their citizens, animals, and the environment.

The EATS Act — and any version of it — would tie the hands of state legislators who are working to build a more humane and resilient food system, negating countless state and local laws across all 50 states. These include laws and regulations to ensure baby and infant food safety, prevent invasive pests, and prohibit animal cruelty. The EATS Act and its potential iterations also threaten laws, including those governing food procurement, intended to support local, independent farmers employing higher-welfare and more sustainable practices.

Inclusion of the EATS Act in the Farm Bill would hurt not only independent farmers across the country who have made significant investments in achieving higher animal welfare and



sustainability standards, but also countless food businesses who have made similar investments to align with existing state laws and regulations.

Federal law should complement state regulations, not limit them. Federal law should not strip away the rights of fairly elected state lawmakers to protect public health and safety, safeguard food supply chains, adapt to extreme weather, and implement animal protection laws. The EATS Act would unconstitutionally and egregiously limit states' ability to pass and enforce these critical protections, insulating a handful of agribusiness corporations from accountability while putting millions at risk. It is imperative that states maintain their constitutionally protected authority to pass laws safeguarding the wellbeing of people and animals while avoiding opening the floodgates to unnecessary litigation—a direct result should the EATS Act — or any version of it — be enacted.

Accordingly, the below signed lawmakers from states across the country urge Congress to oppose the inclusion of the EATS Act and any similar provisions restricting states' rights in the 2024 Farm Bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Signed,

Alabama

Senator Merika Coleman

Alaska

Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson

Senator Scott Kawasaki

Arizona

Representative Stephanie Stahl Hamilton

Representative Nancy Gutierrez

Arkansas

Representative David Whitaker

California

Assemblymember Laura Friedman

Colorado

Representative Brianna Titone

Representative Cathy Kipp

Representative Karen McCormick

Representative Manny Rutinel

Representative Emily Sirota

Representative Meg Froelich

Senator Lisa Cutter

Connecticut

Representative Aundré Bumgardner

Representative David Michel

Representative Jane Garibay

Senator Marilyn Moore

Florida

Representative Anna Eskamani

Representative Rita Harris



Representative Dotie Joseph
Representative Angie Nixon
Senator Geraldine Thompson

Georgia

Representative Anne Ellen Westbrook
Representative Becky Evans
Representative Billy Mitchell
Representative Carl Gilliard
Representative Debra Bazemore
Representative Dewey McClain
Representative El-Madhi Holly
Representative Gloria Fraizer
Representative Inga Willis
Representative Karla Drenner
Representative Kim Schofield
Representative Lydia Glaize
Representative Marvin Lim
Representative Mary Frances Williams
Representative Miriam Paris
Representative Phil Olaleye
Representative Rhonda Burnough
Representative Rhonda Taylor
Representative Sandra Scott
Representative Shea Roberts
Representative Shelly Hutchison
Representative Teri Anulewicz
Representative Viola Davis
Senator Elena Parent
Senator Kim Jackson
Senator Nabilah Islam Parkes
Senator Nan Orrock
Senator Nikki Merritt
Senator Sonya Halpern
Senator Tonya Anderson

Hawai'i

Representative Amy Perruso
Representative Jeanné Kapela

Illinois

Representative Sonya Harper

Indiana

Senator Shelli Yoder

Iowa

Representative Art Staed
Representative Charles Isenhart
Representative Elinor Levin
Representative Elizabeth Wilson
Representative J.D. Scholten
Representative Megan Srinivas
Representative Sharon Steckman
Representative Tracy Ehlert

Kansas

Senator Mary Ware

Kentucky

Representative Keturah Herron

Louisiana

Representative Jason Hughes
Representative C. Travis Johnson

Maine

Representative Bill Pluecker
Representative Lynne Williams
Representative Sophie Warren
Representative Sally Cluchey
Senator Stacy Brenner

Maryland

Delegate Sheila Ruth

Massachusetts

Representative Lindsay Sabadosa
Representative David LeBoeuf

**Michigan**

Representative Carrie Rheingans
Representative Emily Dievendorf
Representative Penelope Tsernoglou
Representative Erin Byrnes
Representative Felicia Brabec
Speaker Pro Tem Laurie Pohutsky
Senator Sue Shink

Minnesota:

Representative Kristi Pursell
Representative Larry Kraft
Representative Brion Curran
Representative Andy Smith

Mississippi

Senator Hillman Frazier

Missouri

Senator Tracy McCreery

Montana

Senator Andrea Olsen

Nevada

Assemblymember Michelle Gorelow
Assemblymember Natha Anderson
Assemblymember Erica Mosca

New Hampshire

Representative Carry Spier
Representative Donald Bouchard

New York

Assemblymember Didi Barrett
Senator Brad Hoylman
Senator Michelle Hinchey

North Carolina

Representative Caleb Rudow
Representative Cynthia Ball

Representative Julie von Haefen
Representative Lindsey Prather
Representative Renee Price
Representative Rosa Gill
Representative Pricey Harrison
Representative Eric Ager
Representative B. Ray Jeffers
Senator Natalie Murdock

Ohio

Representative Munira Abdullahi
Representative Juanita Brent

Oklahoma

Representative Arturo Alonso-Sandoval

Oregon

Representative Khanh Pham
Representative Mark Gamba
Representative Tom Andersen

Pennsylvania

Representative Arvind Venkat
Representative Dan Frankel
Representative Elizabeth Fiedler
Representative Mary Jo Daley
Representative Melissa Shusterman
Representative Chris Rabb
Senator Amanda Capelletti
Senator Judith Schwank

Rhode Island

Representative Jennifer Boylan
Representative June Speakman
Representative Michelle McGaw
Representative Rebecca Kislak
Representative Terri-Denise Cortvriend
Representative Susan Donovan
Senator Meghan Kallman
Senator Alana DiMario



South Carolina

Representative Russell Ott

South Dakota

Senator Liz Larson

Tennessee

Representative Aftyn Behn

Representative John Ray Clemmons

Utah

Representative Rosemary Lesser

Vermont

Representative Mike Rice

Representative Esme Cole

Representative Josie Leavitt

Representative David Templeman

Representative Emilie Krasnow

Representative Heather Surprenant

Virginia

Delegate Elizabeth Bennett-Parker

Delegate Shelly Anne Simonds

Washington

Representative Mia Gregerson

Representative Kristine Reeves

Representative Nicole Macri

Senator Lisa Wellman

Senator Jamie Pedersen

Wisconsin

Representative Lisa Subeck

Senator Kelda Roys