

April 27, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson and Leader Jeffries:

The undersigned organizations representing America's farmers, ranchers, and partners write in strong support of Section 12006 of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, which provides much needed certainty in farm country. California's 2018 ballot measure known as Proposition 12, and the implications of the Supreme Court's decision in *National Pork Producers Council v. Ross*, has caused detrimental impacts and uncertainty on our members' farms and ranches, especially small and medium-sized farms. We strongly urge Congress to support the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, including Section 12006, to prevent an unsustainable patchwork of 50 conflicting state laws that would burden producers, snarl interstate commerce, and decrease food affordability.

Proposition 12 prohibits the sale of pork, veal, and eggs produced from animals not housed according to the state's arbitrary requirements. In May 2023, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that only Congress has the authority to step in and protect American agriculture from regulatory chaos posed by laws such as Proposition 12.

Both the Trump and Biden Administrations have recognized that this situation is untenable. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins stated that "[Proposition 12] is not just affecting California. It's affecting multitudes of other states, multitudes of other parts of the ag community, including our hog family farms."¹ USDA Deputy Secretary Stephen Vaden similarly warned that if one state can block products from another, the nation "ceases to function as a unified national market," emphasizing that this "is not a partisan issue."²

These concerns mirror those raised during the Biden Administration. Then-Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack cautioned that failing to address Proposition 12 would create, "chaos in the marketplace."³ stressing that "farmers do not need the chaos, they need clarity and certainty."⁴ Our organizations strongly agree on this bipartisan consensus.

¹ <https://x.com/NPPC/status/1882532927332082071>

² <https://www.nationalhogfarmer.com/farming-business-management/vaden-supreme-court-got-prop-12-decision-wrong>

³ <https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/us-agriculture-secretary-sees-chaos-meat-market-without-congressional-action-2024-02-14/>

⁴ <https://www.c-span.org/video/?c5107918/user-clip-02-28-24-boozman-vilsack-prop-12>

Without immediate congressional action, agriculture is at risk of arbitrary and conflicting state laws across all 50 states on a myriad of issues. Laws like California's Proposition 12 lack scientific evidence to support their reasoning.

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), which represents more than 111,000 member veterinarians, stated that "because no one husbandry style is appropriate for all circumstances, regulations aimed at improving animal welfare should be based upon scientific evidence and the professional judgement of veterinarians."⁵ In a letter to the House Agriculture Committee, AVMA further stated that "the arbitrary housing requirements in Prop 12 do not objectively improve animal welfare and may unintentionally cause harm."

Nevertheless, since Proposition 12's enforcement, similar ballot measures are being considered in other states, such as Oklahoma. If approved, these would increase sow housing size requirements beyond Proposition 12 for producers to sell in the state. This means that pork producers nationwide, regardless of whether they have converted to be Prop. 12-compliant, would yet again be out of compliance to access another state market. This would harm small and medium-sized farms most severely by imposing massive compliance costs and forcing significant consolidation throughout agriculture.

According to studies by North Carolina State University and Iowa State University economists, constructing new, Proposition 12-compliant barns can cost 25-40% more per sow than other housing styles, not including the estimated 15% higher operating costs per pig caused by reduced productivity.⁶

Not only is the financial burden of Proposition 12 being felt by pork producers, but consumers are now facing much higher prices for covered pork products. A recent report by economists at North Dakota State University found that since Proposition 12 was implemented, prices for covered products in California have increased nearly 20% on average, with pork loins still sitting 30% higher due to Proposition 12. The same study found that California consumers have spent an additional \$350 million on pork products while their pork consumption levels have declined 16% due to Proposition 12.⁷

Another study by economists at Iowa State University and Kansas State University found that if other states adopt similar measures, it could cost U.S. consumers more than \$40 billion over 15 years.⁸ With food affordability top of mind for many families, Congress must protect consumers'

⁵ <https://nppc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/AVMA.2024FBSupportLetter.pdf>

⁶ Goodwin, B.K. *California's Proposition 12 and the Impacts on the Pork Industry*.

<https://nppc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Goodwin-Prop-12-Final.pdf> ; Schulz, L.L, Hadrich, J.C., (2023). *An Economic Assessment of New Swine Gestation Facility Investment*.

<https://npbresearchfile.s3.amazonaws.com/Schulz-Hadrich-An-Updated-Economic-Assessment-of-New-Swine-Gestation-Facility-Investment-Submitted-09292023.pdf>

⁷ Lwin, Wuit Yi, Andrew Keller, Shawn Arita, Joseph Cooper, and Sandro Steinbach. "Updated Evidence on the Impact of Proposition 12 on Pork Prices, Wholesale Segmentation, and Consumption." ARPC White Paper 2026-06, Agriculture Risk Policy Center, North Dakota State University, April 15, 2026.

⁸ Schulz, L.L. and Tonsor, G.T. (2024). *Evaluating the Economic Impacts of Proposition 12, Question 3, and Related Regulations on U.S. Consumers*.

https://www.porkcdn.com/sites/porkcheckoff/assets/files/-ExecutiveSummarySubmitted05142024_1721927678991.pdf

access to affordable food and safeguard the farmers and producers who work every day to provide it.

Section 12006 protects our nation's robust food supply chains and the freedom of farmers across the country to raise food in the best possible way. This approach also continues to allow states to act independently by imposing laws that impact commerce within their borders and regulating practices occurring there. California and other states could continue to regulate pork production within their borders, while protecting the rights of other states to make their own determinations.

As the Supreme Court's decision made clear: only Congress has the authority to prevent chaos in the marketplace and provide farmers with the certainty they need. If Congress fails to act, the chaos from a segmented market will drive consolidation and force American family farmers out of business, as the rest of agriculture remains exposed. We ask Congress to support Section 12006 in the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 and urge you to ensure any farm bill reauthorization provides certainty to producers and protects their investments from a 50-state compliance patchwork.

Sincerely,

[Signatories listed on the following page]

National Organizations:

Agricultural and Food Transporters Conference
Agricultural Retailers Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American National Cattlemen
American Sheep Industry Association
American Soybean Association
Beef Alliance
Livestock Marketing Association
Milk Producers Council
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Corn Growers Association
National Milk Producers Federation
National Pork Producers Council
National Thoroughbred Racing Association
National Turkey Federation
Rural & Agriculture Council of America
United States Cattlemen's Association

State Organizations:

Alabama

Honorable Rick Pate, Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries
Alabama Cattlemen's Association
Alabama Dairy Producers
Alabama Farmers Federation
Alabama Livestock Markets Association
Alabama Pork Producers

Arizona

Arizona Cattle Growers' Association
Arizona Dairy Producers Trade Association
Arizona Farm Bureau Federation
Arizona Pork Council
Graham County Farm Bureau
Mohave County Farm Bureau
Navajo County Farm Bureau
Pinal County Farm Bureau
Yuma County Farm Bureau

Arkansas

Arkansas Cattlemen's Association
Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation
Arkansas Livestock Marketing Association
Arkansas Pork Producers Association
Arkansas Soybean Association

California

California Livestock Auction Markets Association
California Pork Producers Association

Colorado

Colorado Cattlemen's Association
Colorado Dairy Farmers
Colorado Farm Bureau
Colorado Livestock Association
Colorado Pork Producers Council
Colorado Wool Growers Association

Delaware

Delaware Farm Bureau
Delaware Pork Producers Association
Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association

Florida

Big River Cattlemen's Association
Bradford County Farm Bureau
Bradford-Union Cattlemen's Association
Citrus County Cattlemen's Association
Charlotte County Cattlemen's Association
Desoto County Cattlemen's Association
Florida Cattlemen's Association
Florida Farm Bureau Federation
Florida Association of Livestock Markets
Gadsden County Cattlemen's Association
Gilchrist County Cattlemen's Association
Gulf County Cattlemen's Association
Hardee County Cattlemen's Association
Highlands County Cattlemen's Association
Hillsborough Cattlemen's Association
Hernando County Cattlemen's Association
Jackson County Cattlemen's Association
Jefferson County Cattlemen's Association
Levy County Cattlemen's Association
Madison County Cattlemen's Association
Manatee County Cattlemen's Association
Marion County Cattlemen's Association
Martin County Cattlemen's Association
Okeechobee County Cattlemen's Association
Osceola County Cattlemen's Association
Palm Beach County Cattlemen's Association
Pasco County Cattlemen's Association

Polk County Cattlemen's Association
Sarasota County Cattlemen's Association
Seminole County Cattlemen's Association
The Meat Sheep Alliance of Florida
Volusia County Cattlemen's Association
Washington County Cattlemen's Association
Washington County Farm Bureau

Georgia

Georgia Farm Bureau Federation
Georgia Livestock Markets Association

Hawaii

Hawaii Pork Industry Association

Idaho

Ada County Farm Bureau
Fremont County Farm Bureau
Idaho Cattle Association
Idaho Dairymen's Association, Inc.
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation
Idaho Livestock Auction Association
Idaho Pork Producers Association
Idaho Wool Growers Association

Illinois

Adams County Farm Bureau
Carroll County Farm Bureau
Cass-Morgan Farm Bureau
Christian County Farm Bureau
Clark County Farm Bureau
Clinton County Farm Bureau
Cook County Farm Bureau
Crawford County Farm Bureau
Cumberland County Farm Bureau
DeKalb County Farm Bureau
Edwards County Farm Bureau
Farm Credit Illinois
Franklin County Farm Bureau
Grain and Feed Association of Illinois
Hancock County Farm Bureau
Henry County Farm Bureau
Illinois Beef Association
Illinois Corn Growers Association
Illinois Farm Bureau Federation
Illinois Milk Producers Association

Illinois Pork Producers Association
Illinois Soybean Association
Illinois Soybean Growers
Jasper County Farm Bureau
Kane County Farm Bureau
Kankakee County Farm Bureau
Kendall-Grundy Farm Bureau
Knox County Farm Bureau
Lake County Farm Bureau
LaSalle County Farm Bureau
Lee County Farm Bureau
Macon County Farm Bureau
Macoupin County Farm Bureau
Madison County Farm Bureau
Marion County Farm Bureau
Marshall-Putnam County Farm Bureau
Mason County Farm Bureau
Massac County Farm Bureau
McDonough County Farm Bureau
McLean County Farm Bureau
Menard County Farm Bureau
Mercer County Farm Bureau
Monroe County Farm Bureau
Montgomery County Farm Bureau
Northampton/Monroe County Farm Bureau
Ogle County Farm Bureau
Peoria County Farm Bureau
Piatt County Farm Bureau
Pike-Scott Farm Bureau
Pulaski-Alexander Farm Bureau
Rock Island County Farm Bureau
Schuyler County Farm Bureau
St. Clair County Farm Bureau
Stephenson County Farm Bureau
Tazewell County Farm Bureau
Vermilion County Farm Bureau
Wabash County Farm Bureau
Warren-Henderson Farm Bureau
Wayne County Farm Bureau
White County Farm Bureau
Will County Farm Bureau
Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau
Woodford County Farm Bureau

Indiana

Agribusiness Council of Indiana
Indiana Beef Cattle Association
Indiana Dairy Producers
Indiana Farm Bureau Federation
Indiana Pork Producers Association
Indiana Sheep Association
Indiana Soybean Alliance Membership & Policy Committee
Monroe County Farm Bureau Inc.

Iowa

Iowa Cattlemen's Association
Iowa Corn Growers Association
Iowa Farm Bureau Federation
Iowa Livestock Auction Markets Association
Iowa Pork Producers Association
Iowa Soybean Association
Iowa State Dairy Association

Kansas

Kansas Corn Growers Association
Kansas Dairy Association
Kansas Farm Bureau Federation
Kansas Livestock Association
Kansas Livestock Marketing Association
Kansas Pork Association
Kansas Soybean Association

Kentucky

Adair County Farm Bureau
Agribusiness Association of Kentucky
Kentucky Association of Meat Processors
Kentucky Corn Growers Association
Kentucky Department of Agriculture
Kentucky Grocers & Convenience Store Association
Kentucky Livestock Marketing Association
Kentucky Pork Producers Association
Kentucky Poultry Federation
Kentucky Retail Federation
Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development Office
Kentucky Soybean Association

Louisiana

Avoyelles Farm Bureau
Cameron Parish Farm Bureau
Grant Parish Farm Bureau

Jackson Parish Farm Bureau
Louisiana Cattlemen's Association
Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation
Louisiana Livestock Marketing Association
Madison Parish Farm Bureau
Morehouse Parish Farm Bureau
Natchitoches Parish Farm Bureau
Tangipahoa Parish Farm Bureau

Maryland

Maryland Farm Bureau Federation
Maryland Pork Producers Association

Michigan

Bay County Farm Bureau
Michigan Cattlemen's Association
Michigan Corn Growers Association
Michigan Farm Bureau Federation
Michigan Pork Producers Association
Michigan Soybean Association
Shiawassee County Farm Bureau

Minnesota

Dodge County Farm Bureau
Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation
Minnesota Lamb & Woold Producers Association (MLWPA)
Minnesota Milk Producers Association
Minnesota Pork Producers Association
Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association
Minnesota Soybean Growers Association
Minnesota Turkey Growers Association
Mower County Farm Bureau

Mississippi

Mississippi Pork Producers Association

Missouri

Missouri Corn Growers Association
Missouri Farm Bureau Federation
Missouri Livestock Marketing Association
Missouri Pork Association

Montana

Montana Association of Livestock Auction Markets, Inc.
Montana Farm Bureau Federation
Montana Pork Producers Council

Montana Stockgrowers Association

Nebraska

Nebraska Cattlemen's Association
Nebraska Corn Growers Association
Nebraska Dry Pea and Lentil Commission
Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation
Nebraska Pork Producers Association
Nebraska Sorghum Producers
Nebraska Soybean Association
Nebraska State Dairy Association
Nebraska Wheat Board
Nebraska Wheat Growers Association

Nevada

Nevada Cattlemen's Association
Nevada Farm Bureau Federation

New Jersey

New Jersey Farm Bureau

New Mexico

New Mexico Cattle Growers Association
New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau
New Mexico Wool Growers, Inc.

New York

New York Pork Producers Cooperative
Northeast Dairy Producers Association

North Carolina

North Carolina Cattlemen's Association
North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation
North Carolina Pork Council
North Carolina Soybean Producers Association

North Dakota

North Dakota Corn Growers Association
North Dakota Farm Bureau Federation
North Dakota Pork Council
North Dakota Soybean Growers Association
North Dakota Stockmen's Association

Ohio

Brown County Farm Bureau
Ohio AgriBusiness Association
Ohio Cattlemen's Association

Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association
Ohio Dairy Producers Association
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation
Ohio Pork Council
Ohio Sheep Improvement Association
Ohio Soybean Association
Van Wert County Farm Bureau

Oklahoma

Atoka County Farm Bureau
Caddo County Farm Bureau
Comanche County Farm Bureau
Custer County Farm Bureau
Grady County Farm Bureau
Kay County Farm Bureau
Kingfisher County Farm Bureau
Mayes County Farm Bureau
McClain County Farm Bureau
Muskogee County Farm Bureau
Noble County Farm Bureau
Nowata County Farm Bureau
Okmulgee County Farm Bureau
Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association
Oklahoma Farm Bureau Federation
Oklahoma Livestock Marketing Association
Oklahoma Pork Council
Oklahoma Soybean Association
Pittsburg County Farm Bureau
Pontotoc County Farm Bureau
Pottawatomie County Farm Bureau
Pushmataha County Farm Bureau
Roger Mills County Farm Bureau
Tulsa County Farm Bureau
Wagoner County Farm Bureau
Washington County Farm Bureau
Washita County Farm Bureau

Oregon

Clatsop County Farm Bureau
Coos-Curry County Farm Bureau
Crook-Wheeler County Farm Bureau
Douglas County Farm Bureau
Hood River County Farm Bureau
Jackson County Farm Bureau
Marion County Farm Bureau
Oregon Cattlemen's Association

Oregon Farm Bureau Federation
Oregon Pork Producers Association
Umatilla-Morrow County Farm Bureau
Yamhill County Farm Bureau

Pennsylvania

Beaver Lawrence Farm Bureau
Bedford County Farm Bureau
Berks County Farm Bureau
Blair County Farm Bureau
Bucks County Farm Bureau
Butler County Farm Bureau
Cambria County Farm Bureau
Center for Dairy Excellence
Clarion/Venango/Forest County Farm Bureau
Fayette County Farm Bureau
Huntingdon County Farm Bureau
Jefferson County Farm Bureau
Juniata County Farm Bureau
Lancaster County Farm Bureau
Lebanon County Farm Bureau
Lehigh County Farm Bureau
Mifflin County Farm Bureau
Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association
Pennsylvania Farm Bureau
Pennsylvania Livestock Auction Association
Perry County Farm Bureau Federation
Warren County Farm Bureau

South Carolina

South Carolina Cattlemen's Association
South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation

South Dakota

South Dakota Cattlemen's Association
South Dakota Corn Growers Association
South Dakota Sheep Growers Association
South Dakota Farm Bureau Federation
South Dakota Livestock Auction Markets Association
South Dakota Pork Producers Council
South Dakota Soybean Association

Tennessee

Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation
Tennessee Livestock Markets Association
Tennessee Pork Producers Association

Tennessee Soybean Association

Texas

Anderson County Farm Bureau

Bexar County Farm Bureau

Kaufman County Farm Bureau

LMA Member Markets of Texas

Texas Association of Dairymen

Texas Cattle Feeders Association

Texas Pork Producers Association

Texas Sheep & Goat Raisers' Association

Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association

Utah

Beaver County Farm Bureau

Iron County Farm Bureau

Utah Cattlemen's Association

Utah Farm Bureau Federation

Utah Pork Producers Association

Virginia

Virginia Cattlemen's Association

Virginia Pork Council

Virginia Soybean Association

Washington

Washington State Sheep Producers

Wisconsin

Dairy Business Association

Langlade County Farm Bureau

Waupaca County Farm Bureau

Waushara County Farm Bureau

Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association

Wisconsin Pork Association

West Virginia

West Virginia Cattlemen's Association

West Virginia Livestock Marketing Association

Wyoming

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation

Wyoming Stock Growers Association

Wyoming Wool Growers Association

Additional Organizations:

Arcadia Stockyard

B&Q Cattle Co.
Carthage Veterinary Service, LTD
Colony Ranch Supply, Inc.
Crystal Spring Hog Equipment
Douglas Cattle Company
Eckerman Sheep Company, LLC
Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative
Elanco Animal Health
FST2C, Inc.
High Desert Show Stock, LLC
Gasho Land and Cattle
JYGA Technologies, Inc.
Kylie Bush, Kentucky Farmer
Livingston Family Farms
LJ Cattle
Magic Valley Pork
MetaFarms, Inc.
Precision Pork Farms, Inc.
River Edge Farms
Roberts Farms
Ryals Cattle Company LLC
Sarah Hawkins, The Feed Bucket
Standard Nutrition Company
Swanson Ranch
Triple S Ranch, LLC
Williford Farms
XCEL Feedyard, LLC