

May 21, 2024

The Honorable GT Thompson
Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Scott
Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture
1010 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Thompson and Ranking Member Scott:

The undersigned organizations representing the country’s farmers, ranchers, and partners write in strong support of Section 12007 of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024, which provides much needed certainty in farm country. California’s Proposition 12 – and the implications of the Supreme Court’s decision in *National Pork Producers Council v. Ross* – are causing turmoil in agricultural markets and having significant detrimental impacts on our members’ farms and ranches, especially small and medium-sized farms, as explained below. We strongly urge Congress to include this critical provision in any farm bill reauthorization to prevent an unworkable patchwork of 50 conflicting state laws throughout the country that snarl interstate commerce.

Proposition 12, a 2018 California ballot measure, 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 12.¹

In his recent testimony before the House Agriculture Committee, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack said, “if we don’t take this issue [Proposition 12] seriously, we’re going to have chaos in the marketplace.”² Further reiterating to the Senate Agriculture Committee, Vilsack said, “if it [Congress] doesn’t figure this out, there is going to be chaos.” He emphasized that “farmers do

Comments

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- Looks great!
- Needs work
- Thanks!



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