



Oppose the Ending Agricultural Trade Suppression (EATS) Act S. 2019 / H.R. 4417

The [EATS Act](#) is a sweeping federal overreach that would strip away states' rights and decimate states' ability to legislate for the benefit of their own residents within their own borders concerning agricultural products. It would eliminate protections for farmed animals, while putting consumers, public health, the environment, and sustainable farming at risk.

Background

The EATS Act prohibits state or local governments from imposing standards on the preharvest production of any agricultural product sold in interstate commerce if the production occurs in another state. The EATS Act is intended to invalidate animal protection and public safety laws like California's Proposition 12 designed to prohibit extreme confinement of farmed animals, but the overbroad and ambiguous language of the EATS Act would have a much further reach. It would hinder states ability to regulate agricultural products sold within their borders, and would could risk [invalidating more than a thousand state and local laws](#) intended to protect consumers, promote food safety, safeguard the public health and protect against zoonotic disease transmission.

By potentially nullifying state and local laws designed for those specific agricultural regions, it could also give large, industrial, polluting corporations a free pass to rapidly expand without having to consider additional laws that could have been put in place to protect and prioritize sustainable farming.

The King Amendment

The EATS Act is virtually identical to legislation introduced in previous sessions of Congress known as the "King Amendment" after its sponsor, former Representative Steve King of Iowa. A broad coalition of advocates for animal protection, food safety, consumer protection, environmental preservation, and rural communities and sustainable farmers staunchly opposed the inclusion of the King Amendment in the 2014 and 2018 Farm Bills and helped ensure its defeat. [More than 170](#) farming, food safety, consumer protection, law enforcement, environmental, and animal protection organizations opposed the King Amendment, in addition to dozens of local governments and hundreds of state legislators, individual farmers, and veterinary professionals.

Constitutional Concerns

The Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution has provided states longstanding authority to legislate for the health, safety, and morals of their own citizens with regard to the sale of goods and services within their own borders. The EATS Act undermines this authority and undermines the principles of federalism that have allowed states to regulate for the best interests of their residents.

Opposition

More than 200 members of Congress have expressed opposition to the EATS Act in letters sent [from 30 senators](#) and [172 representatives](#) to the leaders of their respective agriculture committees. Additionally, [more than 2,000 stakeholders](#), including organizations, farms and farmers, veterinary professionals, and media outlets oppose the EATS Act.

The bill strips states of their authority to regulate their own agricultural industries and imposes additional roadblocks for them in passing laws to protect their own citizens, as well as animals, public health, and consumers. Please oppose S. 2019 / H.R. 4417.