

June 22, 2026

The Honorable John Boozman
Chairman
U.S. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and
Forestry Committee
328-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and
Forestry Committee
328-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Boozman and Ranking Member Klobuchar:

As the U.S. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee continues to work on a much-needed farm bill, the undersigned organizations, representing America's farmers, ranchers, and partners, write in strong support of a solution to California's Proposition 12 and request its inclusion in any farm bill reauthorization that advances out of the Committee.

Proposition 12 prohibits the sale of pork, veal, and eggs produced from animals not housed according to the state's arbitrary and unscientific requirements.

The 2018 California ballot measure and subsequent results of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *National Pork Producers Council v. Ross* continue to cause serious, damaging impacts and uncertainty on our members' farms and ranches, especially small and medium-sized farms.

In May 2023, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that only Congress has the authority to protect American agriculture from regulatory chaos posed by laws such as Proposition 12. The time is now for Congress to bring forth that solution and prevent an unsustainable patchwork of 50 conflicting state laws that would burden producers, snarl interstate commerce, and decrease food affordability.

Both the Trump and Biden administrations recognize 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. Former Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack warned that "California's Proposition 12 is not a narrow issue, nor is it a regional one. It goes to the heart of whether farmers across the country can operate under

¹ National Pork Producers Council, "We Need Congress to Support Rural America – Not Hollywood Voters – in the Farm Bill," *National Pork Producers Council*, April 24, 2026, <https://nppc.org/news/we-need-congress-to-support-rural-america-not-hollywood-voters-in-the-farm-bill/>

² National Pork Producers Council, "Vaden: Supreme Court got Prop 12 Decision Wrong," *National Pork Producers Council*, January 27, 2026, <https://www.nationalhogfarmer.com/farming-business-management/vaden-supreme-court-got-prop-12-decision-wrong>

consistent, responsible, science-based standards – or be subject to a shifting patchwork of mandates they cannot control and cannot afford.”³ He added, “I encouraged Congress to act then, and I am again encouraging Congress to act now. The farm bill presents a clear and immediate opportunity to provide that certainty and uphold the principles that have long sustained American agriculture and the affordability of our food supply.” Our organizations strongly agree with this bipartisan consensus.

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), which represents more than 111,000 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.”⁴ In a letter to the U.S. House Agriculture Committee, AVMA further stated that “the requirements in Prop 12 are not scientifically based and have not been objectively demonstrated to reliably and consistently improve animal welfare... AVMA is opposed to Prop 12, which restricts veterinarians’ flexibility to provide the best care possible based on animals’ specific needs.”

Similarly, the American Association of Swine Veterinarians (AASV), an organization comprised of 1,300 members representing the swine veterinary profession, told the U.S. House Agriculture Committee, “the ballot initiative [California Proposition 12] does not objectively improve animal welfare. In fact, in some cases, it may compromise animal welfare.” AASV urged Congress to “ensure any farm bill reauthorization provides certainty and protects their investments from a 50-state compliance patchwork,” by providing a solution for Proposition 12.⁵

Nevertheless, since Proposition 12’s enforcement, similar ballot measures are being considered in other states, such as Oklahoma. If approved, these initiatives would further increase sow housing size requirements beyond Proposition 12 for producers to sell in that state. This means that pork producers nationwide, regardless of whether they have converted to be Proposition 12-compliant, would yet again be out of compliance to access a 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 producers 25-40% more per sow than other housing styles. This is on top of the estimated 15% higher operating costs per pig caused by reduced productivity.⁵ The prospect of other states adopting measures conflicting with Proposition 12 presents a very real threat to family farms. In a letter sent to the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture, USDA reported that compliance costs disproportionately impact small and mid-sized producers who face tighter margins and have less access to the needed

³ National Pork Producers Council, “Millions-strong Farmer Coalition Urges Prop. 12 Relief in Farm Bill,” *National Pork Producers Council*, April 27, 2026, <https://nppc.org/news/millions-strong-farmer-coalition-urges-prop-12-relief-in-farm-bill/>

⁴ <https://nppc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/AVMA-House-Ag.-Farm-Bill-Prop-12-LTC-.pdf>

⁵ 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>

capital. As of the first quarter of 2025, USDA reported that 12% of farms with less than 500 sows had exited the industry or shifted production away from breeding, citing regulatory uncertainty and high transition costs.⁶

Not only is the financial burden of Proposition 12 being felt by pork producers, but consumers are facing much higher prices. A recent report by economists at North Dakota State University and USDA's Office of the Chief Economist 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 conducted 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' access to affordable food and safeguard the farmers and producers who work every day to provide it.

Addressing Proposition 12 is Congress' responsibility to protect our nation's robust food supply chains and the freedom of farmers across the country to raise food in the best possible way. The solution approved in the House's farm bill reauthorization also continues to allow states to act independently by allowing the adoption of laws that impact commerce within their own borders and regulating practices there. California and other states could continue to regulate in-state pork production, 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 and leave the rest of agriculture exposed to the same fate.

We ask the U.S. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee to ensure that a solution for Proposition 12 is included in the upcoming farm bill reauthorization. Only congressional action can provide certainty to producers, protect their investments from a regulatory nightmare, and ensure pork remains on the tables of Americans for years to come.

Sincerely,
[Signatories listed on the following page]

CC: Members of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee

⁶ <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/f/?id=00000198-33f0-d5ca-af99-73f42b950000>

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

National Organizations:

Agricultural and Food Transporters Conference
Agricultural Retailers Association
American Dairy Sheep 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
Arizona Pork Council

Arkansas

Arkansas Cattlemen's Association
Arkansas Farm Bureau
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-Union Cattlemen's Association
Citrus County Cattlemen's Association
Charlotte County Cattlemen's Association
DeSoto County Cattlemen's Association
Florida Association of Livestock Markets
Florida Cattlemen's Association
Florida Farm Bureau Federation
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

Georgia

Georgia Farm Bureau
Georgia Livestock Markets Association
Georgia Pork Producers Association

Hawaii

Hawaii Pork Industry Association

Idaho

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
DuPage County Farm Bureau
Edwards County Farm Bureau
Farm Credit Illinois
Franklin County Farm Bureau
Fulton 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
McHenry County Farm Bureau
McLean County Farm Bureau
Menard County Farm Bureau
Mercer County Farm Bureau
Monroe County Farm Bureau
Montgomery County Farm Bureau
Moultrie-Douglas 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
Stark 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 Corn Growers Association
Indiana Dairy Producers
Indiana Farm Bureau
Indiana Pork Producers Association
Indiana Sheep Association
Indiana Soybean Alliance Membership &
Policy Committee

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
Kansas Livestock Association
Kansas Livestock Marketing Association
Kansas Pork Association
Kansas Soybean Association

Kentucky

Agribusiness Association of Kentucky
Kentucky Association of Meat Processors
Kentucky Corn Growers Association
Kentucky Department of Agriculture
Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation
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

Louisiana Cattlemen's Association
Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation
Louisiana Livestock Marketing Association

Maryland

Maryland Farm Bureau
Maryland Pork Producers Association

Michigan

Michigan Cattlemen's Association
Michigan Corn Growers Association
Michigan Farm Bureau
Michigan Pork Producers Association
Michigan Soybean Association

Minnesota

Minnesota Corn Growers Association
Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation
Minnesota Lamb & Wool Producers
Association
Minnesota Milk Producers Association
Minnesota Pork Producers Association
Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association
Minnesota Soybean Growers Association
Minnesota Turkey Growers Association

Mississippi

Mississippi Pork Producers Association

Missouri

Missouri Corn Growers Association
Missouri Farm Bureau
Missouri Livestock Marketing Association
Missouri Pork Association
Missouri Soybean 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 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 Hampshire

New Hampshire 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 Farm Bureau
New York Pork Producers Cooperative
Northeast Dairy Producers Association

North Carolina

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

North Dakota

North Dakota Corn Growers Association
North Dakota Pork Council
North Dakota Soybean Growers Association
North Dakota Stockmen's Association

Ohio

Ohio AgriBusiness Association
Ohio Cattlemen's Association
Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association
Ohio Dairy Producers Association
Ohio Farm Bureau
Ohio Pork Council
Ohio Sheep Improvement Association
Ohio Soybean Association

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association
Oklahoma Farm Bureau
Oklahoma Livestock Marketing Association
Oklahoma Pork Council
Oklahoma Soybean Association

Oregon

Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Oregon Farm Bureau
Oregon Pork Producers Association

Pennsylvania

Center for Dairy Excellence
Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association
Pennsylvania Farm Bureau
Pennsylvania Livestock Auction Association

South Carolina

South Carolina Cattlemen's Association
South Carolina Farm Bureau
South Carolina Sheep Industry Association

South Dakota

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

Tennessee

Tennessee Corn Growers Association
Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation
Tennessee Livestock Markets Association
Tennessee Pork Producers Association
Tennessee Soybean Association

Texas

LMA Member Markets of Texas
Texas Association of Dairymen
Texas Cattle Feeders Association
Texas Farm Bureau
Texas Pork Producers Association
Texas Sheep & Goat Raisers' Association
Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers
Association

Utah

Utah Cattlemen's Association
Utah Farm Bureau Federation
Utah Pork Producers Association

Vermont

Vermont Dairy Producers Alliance

Virginia

Virginia Cattlemen's Association
Virginia Farm Bureau Federation
Virginia Pork Council
Virginia Soybean Association

Washington

Washington Farm Bureau
Washington State Sheep Producers

West Virginia

West Virginia Cattlemen's Association
West Virginia Livestock Marketing
Association

Wisconsin

Dairy Business Association
Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association
Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation
Wisconsin Pork Association

Wyoming

Wyoming Stock Growers Association
Wyoming Wool Growers Association

Additional Farmers and 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 Pork Producer
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