



FACT SHEET: The Ending Agricultural Trade Suppression (EATS) Act, H.R.4417/S.2019

FARMERS, RANCHERS OPPOSE THE EATS ACT (H.R.4417/S.2019, 118TH)

Introduced by Rep. Ashley Hinson (R-IA) and Sen. Roger Marshall (R-KS), the Ending Agricultural Trade Suppression (EATS) Act, H.R.4417/S.2019, would strip certain lawmaking powers from states and consolidate those powers within the federal government. If enacted into law, the EATS Act would wipe out thousands of state and local laws in the agriculture policy jurisdiction. These laws often benefit family farms over international conglomerates, including those based in China and Brazil.

EXTREME, PARTISAN FEDERAL OVERREACH

Impelled by California's Prop 12, the leaders of the EATS Act have framed the bill as a regulatory solution by reverting to federal overreach. In truth, EATS would invalidate hundreds of state and local agriculture laws that support family beef, dairy, egg, and pork producers, as well as hundreds of laws related to food safety and invasive pest control. The EATS Act would strip states and localities of their right to determine standards or conditions on agricultural products in interstate commerce when these standards deviate from federal law. In doing so, the bill benefits big foreign companies who would no longer need to navigate and comply with various state laws (the very state laws that promote American farmers and ranchers), accelerating and streamlining their continued takeover of our agricultural sector.

UNDERMINES FARMERS, RANCHERS, AND RURAL CONTROL

The potential ramifications of the EATS Act are broad, sweeping, and deeply concerning. Under the deceptive cloak of interstate trade fairness, the EATS Act would wrest power from our rural communities, denying them the right to establish higher standards that reflect their unique agricultural heritage and community values. The result is an unwarranted risk to our communities and an erosion of the bedrock principle of states' rights.

STATE LAWS INVALIDATED BY H.R.4417/S.2019

Although the EATS Act sponsors may only intend to invalidate animal welfare and food safety laws, an independent analysis by Harvard Law School shows the bill would invalidate state laws related to:

- **Child Labor Laws:** Present in numerous states, these enforce strict rules on employing minors in agriculture, safeguarding their well-being and averting exploitation.

- **Food Safety Laws:** Laws like those restricting the sale or distribution of expired food products, potential carriers of harmful bacteria.
- **School Safety Laws:** Regulations limiting the production, sale, or use of certain pesticides in proximity to schools, protecting our children from harmful exposure.
- **Invasive Species Laws:** These ensure vigilant enforcement against invasive pests that jeopardize local agriculture, logging businesses, and ecosystems.
- **Pet Food Regulations:** Restrictions on the sale of pet food containing diseased animals or unwholesome substances.
- **Transparency and Governance Laws:** Rules that forbid the deletion of public records, ensuring transparency and accountability in our food system.

EATS ACT OPPONENTS

National Conference of State Legislatures
 American Grassfed Association
 Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance
 National Dairy Producers Organization
 National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
 Farm Action
 Niman Ranch (Pork arm of Perdue)
 Food & Water Watch
 Organization for Competitive Markets
 National Consumers League
 Center for Food Safety

Organic Farmers Association
 FreedomWorks
 Alabama Contract Poultry Growers Association
 Center for Science in the Public Interest
 Consumer Federation of America
 Health Care Without Harm
 Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement
 Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future
 National Council for Occupational Health and Safety
 Association of Prosecuting Attorneys

KEY QUOTES

“The EATS Act is nothing but a Trojan Horse designed to put family farmers out of business and give multinational conglomerates like JBS and Chinese-owned Smithfield an even greater advantage than they already have.” said Mike Schultz, **founder of the Kansas Cattlemen’s Association**. “It’s a crying shame to see my Senator Roger Marshall leading this assault on producers and states’ rights.”

“If the King Amendment or EATS act or anything like it is added to the farm bill it will be devastating for dairy producers like me across America,” said **Deborah Mills, chair of the National Dairy Producers Organization**.

“We must prevent the EATS Act from being included in the upcoming Farm Bill and exhaust every resource available to keep this poison pill from becoming law,” said **Jonathan Buttram, the president of the Alabama Contract Poultry Growers Association**. “U.S. House and Senate Agriculture Committee leaders Debbie Stabenow, Glenn Thompson, John Boozman, and David Scott should reject this egregious attack against state agriculture laws.”

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