

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0913

September, 16 2025

The Honorable Glenn "G.T." Thompson
Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Angie Craig
Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Thompson and Ranking Member Craig:

We write today to express our unwavering commitment to the prosperity, security, and resilience of American agriculture. As you craft policies in the Farm Bill, the Agriculture Appropriations bill, including the language included in the 2024 House Farm Bill, the Food Security and Farm Protection Act (S. 1326), and the Save Our Bacon Act (H.R. 4673), and other legislative vehicles in the 119th Congress, we urge you to oppose any inclusion of the Ending Agricultural Trade Suppression (EATS) Act or similar provisions that would erode states' rights, undermine family farmers, and expand foreign influence over U.S. food production.

Local decision-making has long been a cornerstone of American agriculture, allowing states to enact policies that reflect the will of their voters and the specific needs of their farming communities. These laws play a critical role in ensuring fair competition, food safety, and public trust. However, the EATS Act seeks to strip states of this authority, overriding the choices of citizens and nullifying investments made by farmers in compliance with these laws. This kind of sweeping federal overreach disregards the principles of federalism and self-governance that have long shaped our nation's agricultural policies.

The Supreme Court of the United States has already weighed in on this issue. In *National Pork Producers Council v. Ross* (2023)¹, the Court upheld California's Proposition 12, affirming the constitutional authority of states to enact agricultural policies that reflect the preferences of their citizens—even when those laws intersect with interstate commerce. Justice Neil Gorsuch, writing for the majority, made it clear: the Constitution does not dictate the specifics of how states regulate goods within their borders. Congress should not attempt to override this precedent by passing legislation that would strip states of their right to govern agricultural practices within their respective jurisdictions.

¹ Harvard Law Review Association. *National Pork Producers Council v. Ross*, 137 Harv. L. Rev. 437 (2023).
<https://harvardlawreview.org/print/vol-137/national-pork-producers-council-v-ross/>

Beyond its constitutional concerns, the EATS Act also poses a direct threat to America's food security. Foreign-owned corporations—particularly those tied to adversarial nations—already hold a disturbing amount of control over U.S. agricultural assets. For example, Smithfield Foods, the largest pork producer in the United States, was acquired in 2013 by China's WH Group (formerly Shuanghui International) for approximately \$4.7 billion. This acquisition marked the largest takeover of a U.S. company by a Chinese firm at that time.

As of 2025, Smithfield Foods maintains a dominant position in the U.S. pork industry, holding a 23 percent market share.² The company's recent return to the U.S. stock market underscores its significant role in the sector.³ Enacting the EATS Act could further consolidate the influence of such foreign entities, granting them greater control over the U.S. agricultural sector and limiting the capacity of individual states to regulate their own food supplies. It is imperative to ensure that American farmers—not foreign governments—maintain control over U.S. domestic food production and supply chains to safeguard national interests.

American farmers have consistently demonstrated their ability to innovate and respond to market demands without federal intervention dictating their business decisions. Today, nearly half of all sow producers have moved away from gestation crates, supplying California, Massachusetts, and major national retailers like Costco and McDonald's, which demand gestation-crate-free pork. These market-driven solutions exemplify the adaptability of our agricultural industry—an adaptability that heavy-handed federal mandates would only disrupt.

As you work to craft policies that will shape the future of American agriculture, we urge you to focus on measures that protect our farmers, respect state sovereignty, and prevent undue foreign influence over our food supply. The success of American agriculture has always depended on striking the right balance between federal and state responsibilities. Congress *must* uphold this principle as it moves forward.

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to strengthening American agriculture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anna Paulina Luna". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a smaller loop at the end.

Anna Paulina Luna
Member of Congress

² Gopalan, N. (2025, January 24). *What to know about the pork IPO that could kick off 2025 with a bang*. Investopedia. <https://www.investopedia.com/this-pork-producer-ipo-could-be-one-of-2025-biggest-smithfield-8779226>

³ Smith, A. (2025, February 10). *Pork giant Smithfield returns to U.S. stock market*. The Wall Street Journal. Retrieved from <https://www.wsj.com/business/pork-giant-smithfield-returns-to-u-s-stock-market-70d3ad8e>



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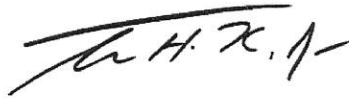
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