

July 23, 2025

The Honorable Glenn "GT" Thompson
Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Angie Craig
Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Chairman Thompson and Ranking Member Craig:

We, the undersigned farmers, raise hogs in compliance with California's Proposition 12 and supply pork to this important market. We write today to thank those members of Congress who have rejected attempts to strip us of this opportunity, and to urge all members to continue standing with American family farmers.

For us, this market is not political, but rather an opportunity to improve the financial success of our operations. Proposition 12 has created a stable, premium market that allows us to sustain our farms, invest in better infrastructure and livestock care, and continue farming in an increasingly consolidated industry. We readily decided to comply with these standards, made the necessary investments, and now rely on this market as a part of our farms' financial futures.

In the last Congress, language was included in the House farm bill draft that would eliminate this market opportunity. It would undercut the very market we have worked hard to serve, penalizing farmers who chose to innovate and respond to consumer demand.

Meanwhile, it would protect those who refused to adapt, including the largest corporate pork producers, such as China-owned Smithfield Foods. Multinational firms do not need Congress to shield them from competition, but family farmers like us need fair access to markets we have earned.

We respectfully ask you to reject any proposal that would dismantle the market created by Proposition 12, and again thank the many members of Congress who continue to stand with independent farmers and the consumers we serve.

Sincerely,

Mike Butcher, Palmyra, Illinois
Jeff Kuhn, Shabbona, Illinois
Steve Maxwell, Rush Hill, Missouri
Daryl Mudd, Olney, Missouri
Dave Mudd, Silex, Missouri
Dean Mudd, Silex, Missouri
Debbie Mudd, Silex, Missouri
Don Mudd, Silex, Missouri

Gary Mudd, Silex, Missouri
Pat Mudd, Silex, Missouri
Terry Mudd, Silex, Missouri
Wes Rynders, Greenfield, Missouri
Brian Sjostrand, Hartsburg, Missouri
Jean Sjostrand, Hartsburg, Missouri
Bob Street, Whiteside, Missouri

cc: Members of the House Committee on Agriculture