

# FACT SHEET

## Processing Revival and Intrastate Meat Exemption (PRIME) Act of 2025 (S.2409/H.R. 4700)

The PRIME Act, introduced by Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY-4) with 43 bipartisan co-sponsors and by Senators Angus King (I-ME) and Rand Paul (R-KY), would let states regulate meat processing and sales within their borders. By allowing farmers to sell custom-processed meat directly to consumers, retailers, and restaurants, the bill strengthens local food systems, creates opportunities for independent producers, and gives communities more choice.



Farm Action



Farm Action Fund

### Background

Federal law requires that meat sold in retail markets be processed at USDA-inspected plants. These facilities are scarce, often booked out months in advance, and largely dominated by a handful of multinational corporations. The “Big Four” meatpackers control **85% of beef processing, 70% of pork, and 60% of poultry**, creating severe bottlenecks that squeeze farmers and reduce consumer choice.

Meanwhile, thousands of smaller processors, operating safely under state and local oversight, are barred from serving the broader marketplace. As a result, rural economies lose business, farmers are cut off from fair markets, and communities cannot access locally produced food. Decentralized processing capacity is essential to building a resilient food system that delivers healthy, whole foods to American families.

### THE PRIME ACT WOULD:

The PRIME Act would expand the existing “custom slaughter” exemption to allow meat processed at custom facilities to be sold within the state. This simple, commonsense change would:

- Authorize intrastate sales of custom-processed meat directly to consumers, restaurants, grocery stores, and other food establishments.
- Unlock local infrastructure by giving small processors the ability to serve their communities.
- Preserve state authority, ensuring that no state is forced to change its laws around custom facilities or meat sales.



## Why It Matters

The current meat processing system funnels power and profits to a handful of multinational corporations. Farmers are forced to sell livestock on unfair terms, consumers lose access to local meat, and rural communities lose jobs and revenue. When processing is so concentrated, even minor disruptions—whether a plant closure, labor shortage, or supply chain breakdown—ripple across the entire food system.

The PRIME Act expands processing options, opens new markets for independent producers, and builds a stronger, more resilient food supply.

## Farmers and Consumers Deserve Better

- **Farmers** gain fairer prices, more processing options, and the ability to sell directly into their communities.
- **Consumers** benefit from greater choice, transparency, and access to food raised and processed close to home.
- **Rural communities** keep wealth circulating locally, building stronger economies and healthier food systems

### Building a Resilient Food System

COVID-19 exposed just how fragile centralized processing can be. Plant closures triggered nationwide shortages, even while farmers were forced to cull livestock they could not process. The PRIME Act would prevent such waste by empowering smaller, state-regulated processors to step in and keep supply chains moving.

Decentralized processing capacity is not just a matter of fairness—it is a matter of food security. The PRIME Act ensures that America's food supply remains strong, diverse, and responsive to community needs.



Farm Action



Farm Action Fund