

# Congress of the United States

## Washington, DC 20510

November 17, 2025

The Honorable Glenn 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  
1010 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Thompson and Ranking Member Craig,

We write today expressing our strong opposition to the inclusion of the Save Our Bacon (SOB) Act (H.R. 4673), which is simply the same language as Sec. 12007 of last year's Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024 (H.R.8467); the Food Security and Farm Protection Act (S. 1306); or any similar legislation being considered as part of a "skinny" farm bill or other legislative vehicle. Modeled after former Representative Steve King's amendment, which was intensely controversial and ultimately excluded from the final 2014 and 2018 Farm Bills, the SOB Act and related proposals would harm America's farmers, threaten numerous state laws, and infringe on the fundamental rights of states to establish laws and regulations within their own borders.

Demand from consumers, food companies, and the farming community has propelled 15 states to enact public health, food safety, and humane standards for the in-state production and sale of products from egg-laying chickens, veal calves, and mother pigs.<sup>1</sup> Many pork and egg farmers have already invested significantly in transitioning to crate-free and cage-free production. The United Egg Producers, the egg industry's trade association, opposes reversing state cage-free laws, as do many pork producers who have embraced the new market opportunities that these laws have created.<sup>2</sup>

But the SOB Act and related measures are promoted with the primary goal of undermining these standards – particularly California's Proposition 12, which the U.S. Supreme Court upheld in a 2023 decision. In that decision, the Court affirmed that states have the authority to regulate the sale of products within their borders and noted that, "Companies that choose to sell products in various States must normally comply with the laws of those various States."<sup>3</sup> In June, the Supreme Court declined to hear yet another pork industry challenge to Proposition 12 when it denied certiorari to the Iowa Pork Producers Association. It is worth noting that Proposition 12 and all implementing regulations were in full effect as of January 1, 2024.

The SOB Act aims to undermine the basic principles of federalism by preempting hundreds of state and local laws, even where no federal standards exist, creating a regulatory vacuum. In doing so, the SOB Act and similar iterations would drastically broaden the scope of federal preemption and impede the ability of voters and elected officials to enact laws that address local concerns due to the unique nature of individual communities.

This is not a case of California and other states imposing their standards on out-of-state producers, as producers in any state can choose not to supply another state's consumers or to segregate animals for different markets. Pork industry economists noted this in an amicus brief,

writing, “Only those producers for which compliance with Proposition 12 is economically beneficial will choose to do so, while all others will continue to supply the vast majority of the North American pork market beyond California’s border and face little or no economic impact.”<sup>4</sup> Additionally, a recent empirical study by three USDA-affiliated economists found no evidence that Proposition 12 impacted pork products outside of California.<sup>5</sup> Using Circana retail scanner data, the study examined early price impacts on covered pork products in both California and the broader U.S. market, concluding there were none.

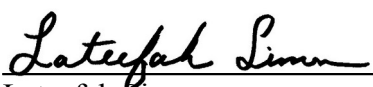
Notably, the importance of trade markets abroad lies in providing key opportunities for pork and other meat producers, particularly those who opt not to sell within the United States. Key export destinations such as China, Mexico, and Canada accounted for a total trade value of \$4.852 billion at the end of 2024, according to data from the Meat Institute.<sup>6</sup>

At the same time, many large pork producers, including Clemens,<sup>7</sup> JBS,<sup>8</sup> Hormel,<sup>9</sup> Perdue,<sup>10</sup> Tyson,<sup>11</sup> and Smithfield,<sup>12</sup> as well as many independent farmers and producers, are following Proposition 12’s standards and supplying state markets. A joint amicus brief submitted by independent farming businesses, farm advocacy organizations including the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, and state farmers unions for Indiana, Iowa, Pennsylvania, Idaho, Oregon and Washington stated, “Independent farmers are willing to meet this demand, and in doing so, can access some of the wealth and power that has accumulated only for pork integrators, and redistribute it back to local communities, businesses, and families.”<sup>13</sup> The SOB Act would undermine this progress and devalue the investments that farmers have already made to comply with Proposition 12 and similar laws.

Besides attacking sales laws related to animal welfare, the SOB Act and related measures could jeopardize how states set standards for disease and quarantine control, toxic materials, and more.

We believe that Congress should not usurp the longstanding power of states to regulate food and agricultural products within their borders. We need not agree with every law or rule adopted by each state to adhere to this core principle of federalism. We urge you to reject the inclusion of this provision in any form in any legislative vehicle. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Lateefah Simon  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



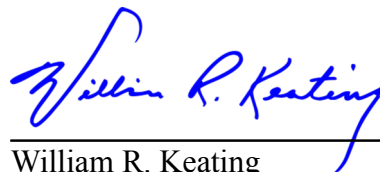
Nancy Pelosi  
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



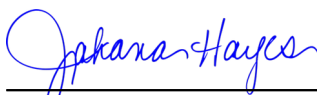
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



William R. Keating  
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Dave Min  
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Jahana Hayes  
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Maggie Goodlander  
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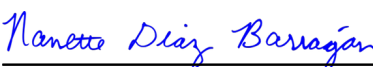
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui  
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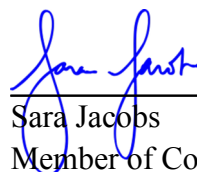
Scott H. Peters  
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Nanette Diaz Barragán  
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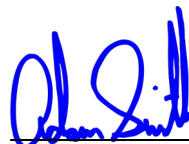
Shri Thanedar  
Member of Congress



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Mike Quigley  
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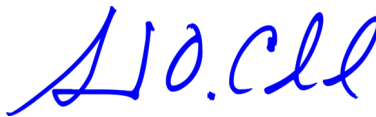
Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



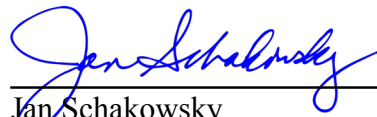
Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



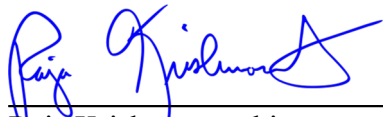
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
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Jerrold Nadler  
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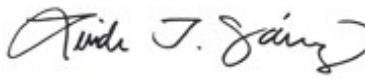
Dina Titus  
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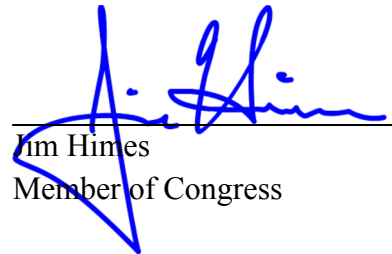
Pramila Jayapal  
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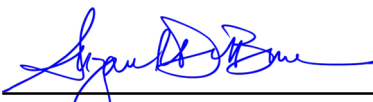
Ami Bera  
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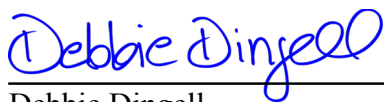
Greg Casar  
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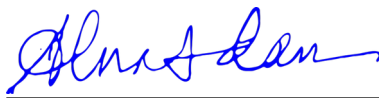
Laura Friedman  
Member of Congress



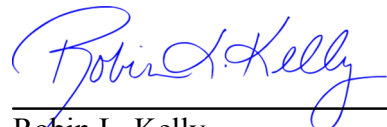
Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



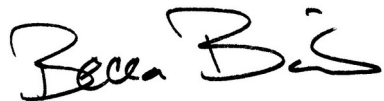
Debbie Dingell  
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Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
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Robin L. Kelly  
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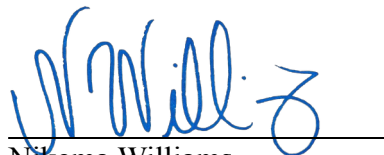
Becca Balint  
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Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
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John B. Larson  
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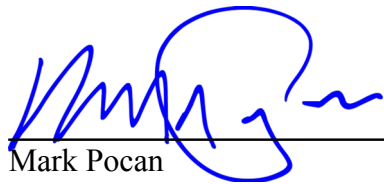
Nikema Williams  
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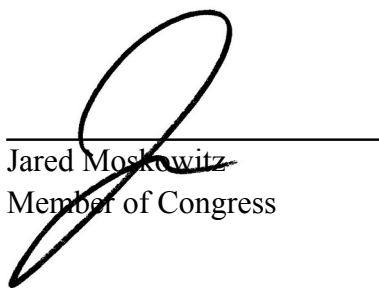
Mike Thompson  
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Mary Gay Scanlon  
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Jared Moskowitz  
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Wesley Bell  
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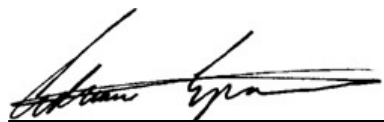
Bradley Scott Schneider  
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Jason Crow  
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Adriano Espaillat  
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Darren Soto  
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Josh Harder  
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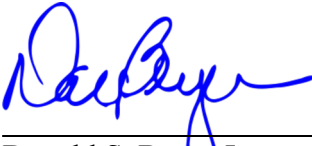
Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



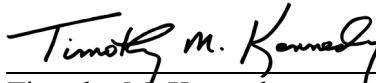
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Lori Trahan  
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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
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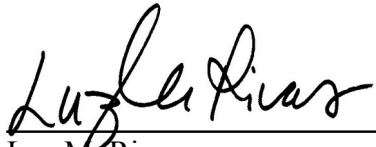
Timothy M. Kennedy  
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Dwight Evans  
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Ritchie Torres  
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Luz M. Rivas  
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Derek T. Tran  
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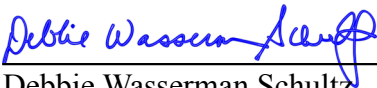
Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



Mike Levin  
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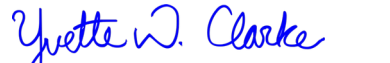
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Zoe Lofgren  
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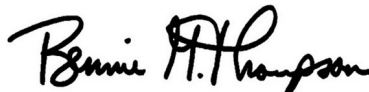
Marilyn Strickland  
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Suhas Subramanyam  
Member of Congress



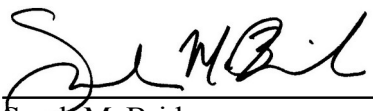
J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress



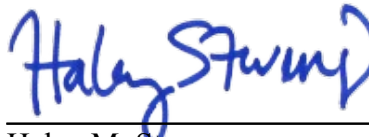
Bennie G. Thompson  
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Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride  
Member of Congress



Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari  
Member of Congress



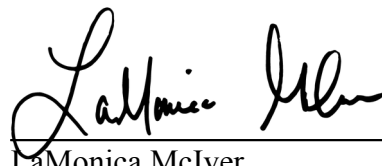
Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress



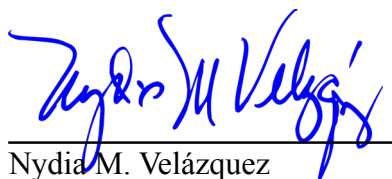
Summer L. Lee  
Member of Congress



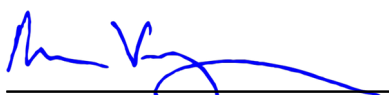
Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver  
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress



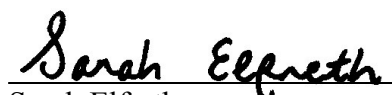
Cleo Fields  
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress



Andre Carson  
Member of Congress



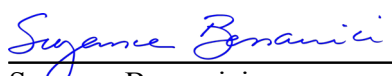
Sarah Elfreth  
Member of Congress



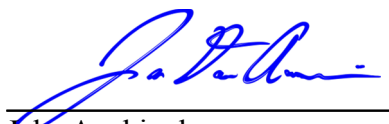
Maxine Dexter  
Member of Congress



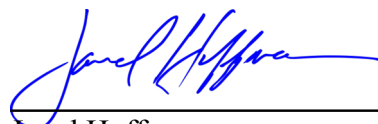
Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman  
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Jasmine Crockett  
Member of Congress



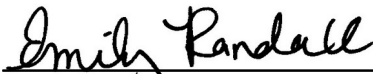
Mikie Sherrill  
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress



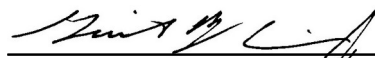
Juan Vargas  
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Emily Randall  
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Brendan F. Boyle  
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Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.  
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Ayanna Pressley  
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Deborah K. Ross  
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Joseph D. Morelle  
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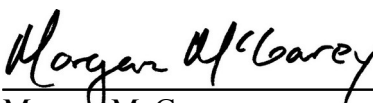
Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio  
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress



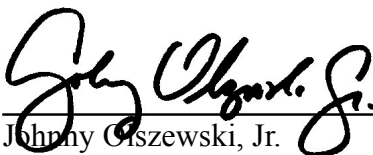
Morgan McGarvey  
Member of Congress



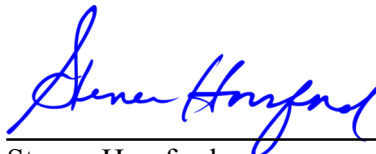
Pete Aguilar  
Member of Congress



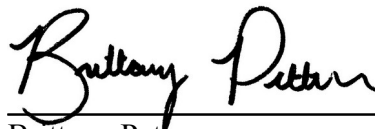
Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
Member of Congress



Johnny Olszewski, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen  
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress  
Ranking Member,  
Subcommittee on Federal  
Lands



Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



George Latimer  
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress



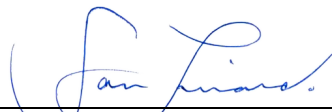
Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress



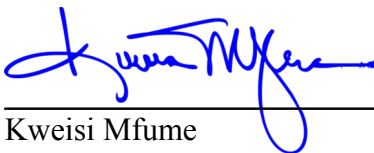
Sam T. Luccardo  
Member of Congress



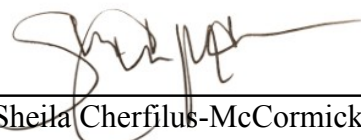
Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress



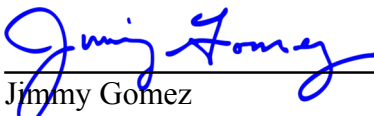
Kweisi Mfume  
Member of Congress



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress



Julie Johnson  
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress



Greg Landsman  
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost  
Member of Congress



Susie Lee  
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



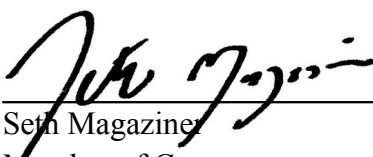
George Whitesides  
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Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



Laura A. Gillen  
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress



Ed Case  
Member of Congress



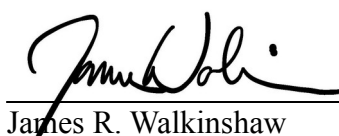
Troy A. Carter, Sr.  
Member of Congress



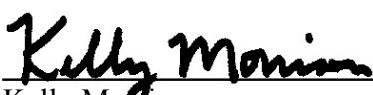
Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress



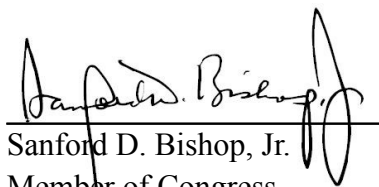
Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



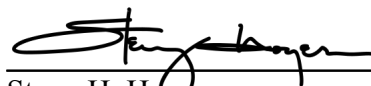
James R. Walkinshaw  
Member of Congress



Kelly Morrison  
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Steny H. Hoyer  
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



Glenn Ivey  
Member of Congress

- <sup>1</sup> CageFreeLaws.com, *Ensure That Your Business Meets Cage-Free Laws*, available at <https://cagefreelaws.com/>.
- <sup>2</sup> Letter from United Egg Producers to Agriculture Secretary Rollins, pp. 2-3, available at [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fv\\_I3xhDv\\_xMzhkKCYBqtOd4U\\_ZWXj7F/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fv_I3xhDv_xMzhkKCYBqtOd4U_ZWXj7F/view?usp=sharing).
- <sup>3</sup> National Pork Producers Council v. Ross, 143 S. Ct. 1142, 1142 (2023).
- <sup>4</sup> Brief of Agricultural and Resource Economics Professors as Amicus Curiae, p. 24, National Pork Producers Council v. Ross, 143 S. Ct. 1142 (2023), available at [https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/21/21-468/228373/20220617170252460\\_21-468AgriculturalAndResourceEconomicProfessors.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/21/21-468/228373/20220617170252460_21-468AgriculturalAndResourceEconomicProfessors.pdf).
- <sup>5</sup> Hawkins, H., Arita, S., & Meyer, S. (2024). Proposition 12 pork retail price impacts on California consumers. Berkeley (CA): Giannini Found Agric Econ, Univ Calif. [https://s.giannini.ucop.edu/uploads/pub/2024/03/19/v27n3\\_2\\_e40mBEN.pdf](https://s.giannini.ucop.edu/uploads/pub/2024/03/19/v27n3_2_e40mBEN.pdf)
- <sup>6</sup> North American Meat Institute, *Meat and Poultry Trade with Canada, Mexico and China*, [https://www.meatinstitute.org/sites/default/files/documents/Meat%20and%20Poultry%20Trade%20with%20Canada%20Mexico%20and%20China\\_0.pdf](https://www.meatinstitute.org/sites/default/files/documents/Meat%20and%20Poultry%20Trade%20with%20Canada%20Mexico%20and%20China_0.pdf).
- <sup>7</sup> Farm Progress, “Pennsylvania Producers Concerned over EATS Act,” Farm Progress, available at <https://www.farmprogress.com/animal-health/pennsylvania-producers-concerned-over-eats-act->.
- <sup>8</sup> California Department of Food and Agriculture, *Registered Distributors: California Department of Food and Agriculture – Animal Care Program*, available at [https://www.cdffa.ca.gov/AHFSS/AnimalCare/docs/Registered\\_Distributors.pdf](https://www.cdffa.ca.gov/AHFSS/AnimalCare/docs/Registered_Distributors.pdf).
- <sup>9</sup> Hormel Foods, *Hormel Foods Company Information About California Proposition 12*, <https://www.hormelfoods.com/newsroom/news/hormel-foods-company-information-about-california-proposition-12/>.
- <sup>10</sup> California Department of Food and Agriculture, *Registered Distributors*.
- <sup>11</sup> California Department of Food and Agriculture, *Registered Distributors*.
- <sup>12</sup> Investigate Midwest, “With California’s Prop 12 Now Law, Pork Producers Adapt While Lobbying Groups Continue to Fight,” available at <https://investigatemidwest.org/2024/03/06/with-californias-prop-12-now-law-pork-producers-adapt-while-lobbying-groups-continue-to-fight/#:~:text=Most%20of%20the%20nation's%20major,the%20standards%20of>.
- <sup>13</sup> Brief of Small and Independent Farming Businesses, State Farmers Unions, and Farm Advocacy Organizations as Amicus Curiae, p. 16, National Pork Producers Council v. Ross, 143 S. Ct. 1142 (2023), available at [https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/21/21-468/233586/20220815212509809\\_IndFarmers\\_Ross\\_Amicus%20Document%20August%2015%202022%20EFile.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/21/21-468/233586/20220815212509809_IndFarmers_Ross_Amicus%20Document%20August%2015%202022%20EFile.pdf).