

**Alabama State Association of Cooperatives • Animal Outreach of Kansas • Animal Legal Defense Fund  
ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) • Automatic Fire Alarm Association  
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation • Center for Biological Diversity  
Center for Campus Fire Safety • Center for Environmental Health • Center for Food Safety  
Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law • Center for Science in the Public Interest  
Citizens for a Clean Pompton Lakes (NJ) • Clean Air Task Force  
Compassion for All Animals (student organization at University of Kansas)  
The Compassion In Action Club (Newport Beach, CA) • Compassion in World Farming  
Compassion Over Killing • Connecticut League of Conservation Voters • Conservation Minnesota  
Consumer Federation of America • Consumers Union • Defenders of Wildlife  
Edison Wetlands Association (NJ) • Environment America • Environmental Working Group  
Farm Forward • Farm Sanctuary • Farmworker Justice  
Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund • Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT)  
Food and Water Watch • Friends of the Earth U.S. • Friends of Family Farmers • Georgia Organics  
Green Cities California • Greene County Democrat (Eutaw, AL newspaper) • Greenpeace USA  
Government Accountability Project • Humane Society Legislative Fund  
The Humane Society of the United States • Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association  
Illinois Citizens for Clean Air & Water • Illinois Environmental Council  
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy • International Code Council  
Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement • Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future  
KHEART (Kansas Horse Education Advocacy Resource Team)  
LCV (League of Conservation Voters) • Mercy For Animals • Minnesota Food Association  
National Association of State Fire Marshals • National Consumers League  
National Fallen Firefighters Foundation • National Organic Coalition  
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition • Natural Resources Defense Council • New Jersey Sierra Club  
Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA)-Mass.  
Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA)-VT • Oregon League of Conservation Voters  
Oregon Humane Society • Organic Consumers Association • PACK (Pet Animal Coalition of Kansas)  
People for Animal Rights of Central New York • Pesticide Action Network • The Pew Charitable Trusts  
Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine • PLBA Housing Development Corp. (Gainesville, AL)  
Rural Coalition • San Diego County Green Party • Sierra Club • Socially Responsible Agricultural Project  
Sonoma County Conservation Action • Texas League of Conservation Voters  
Texas League of Conservation Voters Educational Fund  
Union for Humans, Animals and the Environment (student organization at Fort Hays State University)  
Union of Concerned Scientists • The Urban Cat Project • Waterkeeper Alliance  
World Society for the Protection of Animals**

September 16, 2013

Dear Senator/Representative:

The undersigned groups write to express strong opposition to a provision offered by Representative Steve King, Amendment #71 adopted during the House Agriculture Committee's markup of H.R. 1947 (the Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013), and now part of the Farm Bill passed by the House on July 11<sup>th</sup> (Sec. 11312 of H.R. 2642). We urge you to do all you can to ensure that neither this language nor anything like it is included in final House-Senate legislation. Rep. King's amendment aims to block state laws protecting farm animals. The provision is so broad and overreaching that it could also preempt a wide swath of state laws covering everything from child labor to dangerous pesticides to labeling of farm-raised fish to alcohol and tobacco products.

It seeks to negate most state and local laws regarding the production or manufacture of agriculture products, directing:

“[T]he government of a State or locality therein shall not impose a standard or condition on the production or manufacture of any agricultural product sold or offered for sale in interstate commerce if (1) such production or manufacture occurs in another State; and (2) the standard or condition is in addition to the standards and conditions applicable to such production or manufacture pursuant to (A) Federal law; and (B) the laws of the State and locality in which such production or manufacture occurs.”

Agricultural products are defined as in 7 U.S.C. 1626, which includes “agricultural, horticultural, viticultural, and dairy products, livestock and poultry, bees, forest products, fish and shellfish, and any products thereof, including processed and manufactured products, and any and all products raised or produced on farms and any processed or manufactured product thereof.”

### **UNPRECEDENTED ASSAULT ON HISTORIC POWER OF STATES TO PROTECT HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THEIR OWN CITIZENS:**

The King amendment tries to force states to authorize the purely local sale and consumption of “any agricultural product” – no matter how dangerous, unethical, environmentally destructive, or otherwise of concern. In other words, if any one state in the union tolerates the production or sale of a particular agricultural product, under the King amendment the other 49 must do so as well. This violates the Tenth Amendment’s guarantee that the states’ sovereign rights cannot be abridged by Congress, and tries to eliminate states’ historic police powers within their borders and destroy the fundamental principles of federalism that have guided our nation since its founding. The King amendment seeks to trigger a race to the bottom, forcing states to allow commerce in products they have banned. As the Supreme Court has made clear, the Commerce Clause allows Congress to regulate commerce; it doesn’t give Congress the authority to mandate its creation, nor to require citizens to participate in commerce they find objectionable. The King amendment is so vaguely worded, it could stop states from regulating strictly in-state producers, as long as the agricultural product is sold into the interstate commerce stream at some point by someone in another state. Interpretation of this amendment would likely be litigated for years, creating uncertainty that stifles business and limits economic growth.

### **STATE LAWS UNDER THE KING AMENDMENT AX:**

Rep. King’s amendment takes aim at state laws approved overwhelmingly by voters through ballot initiatives or by state legislatures. The King amendment could negate a wide range of measures regarding animal welfare, food safety, labeling, environmental requirements, fire safety, labor standards, and other issues. It is standard practice for states to impose conditions relating to the production or manufacture of agriculture products in order to safeguard their citizens. Some examples include state laws regarding use of dangerous pesticides on crops; arsenic in poultry feed; rules on raw milk, milk fat, and milk solids; standards on alcohol production such as additives, container sterilization, and age limits for manufacturer employees; tobacco laws, including laws requiring cigarettes to meet fire safety standards; labeling of farm-raised fish, artificial sweeteners, maple syrup, alcohol, distiller’s grains, and other products; rules on firewood transported into the state in order to protect against invasive pests and damage to local forests; shipment of Christmas trees; labeling requirements and germination standards for seeds; listing of chemicals known to cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm, and notification of significant amounts of chemicals in products; state pollution standards, such as bans on spraying sewage on crops directly before they are fed to people, and requirements for lagoon siting, wastewater discharge, and use of licensed sludge applicators; agricultural employment, including child labor laws, standards for inspections and certifications, and health and safety standards for agricultural employees involving use of dangerous farm machinery, field sanitation, exposure to pesticides, respiratory hazards, heat-illness, and hearing loss prevention; and animal welfare laws restricting practices such as intensive confinement of animals on large farms, horse slaughter, the killing of sharks for their fins, and the sale of dog and cat meat. States require disclosure of certain ingredients, restrict the sale of products that citizens and state legislators have determined have a negative impact

on the environment or population, protect against public nuisance, require certain certifications – the sweeping language of Amendment #71 could brush away countless laws adopted by states with regard to agriculture.

We urge Congress to reject the King amendment or any similar radical assault on duly-enacted state and local laws.  
We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ethel Giles  
Coordinator  
**Alabama State Association of Cooperatives**

Judy Carman  
President  
**Animal Outreach of Kansas**

Stephen Wells  
Executive Director  
**Animal Legal Defense Fund**

Matthew Bershadker  
President and CEO  
**ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals)**

Tom Hammerberg, SET, CFPS  
President/Executive Director  
**Automatic Fire Alarm Association**

Mark Schacht,  
Legislative Director,  
**California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation (CRLAF)**

William Snape  
Senior Counsel  
**Center for Biological Diversity**

Diane Eggerman  
Coordinator of Government Relations  
**Center for Campus Fire Safety**

Michael Green  
Executive Director  
**Center for Environmental Health**

Andrew Kimbrell  
Executive Director  
**Center for Food Safety**

Peter Schey  
President  
**Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law**

David Plunkett, J.M., J.D.  
Senior Food Safety Attorney  
**Center for Science in the Public Interest**

Lisa Raggiola  
Executive Director  
**Citizens For A Clean Pompton Lakes (NJ)**

Conrad Schneider  
Advocacy Director  
**Clean Air Task Force**

Parendi Birdie  
President  
**Compassion for All Animals (student organization at University of Kansas)**

Karen Coyne  
President and CEO  
**The Compassion In Action Club** (Newport Beach, CA)

Leah Garces  
USA Director  
**Compassion in World Farming**

Erica Meier  
Executive Director  
**Compassion Over Killing**

Lori Brown  
Executive Director  
**Connecticut League of Conservation Voters**

Paul Austin  
Executive Director  
**Conservation Minnesota**

Chris Waldrop  
Director, The Food Policy Institute  
**Consumer Federation of America**

Jean Halloran  
Director, Food Policy Initiatives  
**Consumers Union**

Mary Beth Beetham  
Director of Legislative Affairs  
**Defenders of Wildlife**

Robert Spiegel  
Executive Director  
**Edison Wetlands Association (NJ)**

Anna Aurilio  
Director, Washington DC Office  
**Environment America**

Scott Faber  
Vice President of Government Affairs  
**Environmental Working Group**

Ben Goldsmith  
Executive Director  
**Farm Forward**

Bruce Friedrich  
Senior Director for Advocacy  
**Farm Sanctuary**

Bruce Goldstein  
President  
**Farmworker Justice**

John Zippert  
Director of Program Operations  
**Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund**

Richard R. Wood  
Executive Director  
**Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT)**

Wenonah Hauter  
Executive Director  
**Food and Water Watch**

Lisa Archer  
Director, Food and Technology Program  
**Friends of the Earth U.S.**

Ivan Maluski  
Policy Director  
**Friends of Family Farmers**

Michael Wall  
Director of Programs  
**Georgia Organics**

Amanda Hitt  
Director, Food Integrity Campaign  
**Government Accountability Project**

Carol Misseldine  
Executive Director  
**Green Cities California**

Carol and John Zippert  
Co-Publishers  
**Greene County Democrat (Eutaw, AL newspaper)**

Kyle Ash  
Senior Legislative Representative  
**Greenpeace USA**

Michael Markarian  
President  
**Humane Society Legislative Fund**

Wayne Pacelle  
President and CEO  
**The Humane Society of the United States**

Barry Kellogg, V.M.D.  
Senior Veterinary Advisor  
**Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association**

Danielle Diamond  
Attorney  
**Illinois Citizens for Clean Air & Water**

Jennifer Walling  
Executive Director  
**Illinois Environmental Council**

Jim Harkness  
President  
**Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy**

David Karmol  
Vice President for Federal and External Affairs  
**International Code Council**

Hugh Espey  
Executive Director  
**Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement**

Dr. Robert Lawrence  
Director  
**Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future**

Karen Everhart  
President  
**KHEART (Kansas Horse Education Advocacy Resource Team)**

Tiernan Sittenfeld  
Senior Vice President of Government Affairs  
**LCV (League of Conservation Voters)**

Nathan Runkle  
Executive Director  
**Mercy For Animals**

Glenn Hill  
Executive Director  
**Minnesota Food Association**

Karen F. Deppa  
Director of External Relations  
**National Association of State Fire Marshals**

Sally Greenberg  
Executive Director  
**National Consumers League**

Ronald J. Siarniki  
Executive Director  
**National Fallen Firefighters Foundation**

Liana Hoodes  
Executive Director  
**National Organic Coalition**

Ferd Hoefner  
Policy Director  
**National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition**

Franz A. Matzner  
Associate Director of Government Affairs  
**Natural Resources Defense Council**

Jeff Tittel  
Director  
**New Jersey Sierra Club**

Jack Kittredge  
NOFA/Mass Policy Director  
**Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA)/Massachusetts**

Dave Rogers  
Policy Advisor  
**Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA)/Vermont**

Sharon Harmon  
Executive Director  
**Oregon Humane Society**

Doug Moore  
Executive Director  
**Oregon League of Conservation Voters**

Ronnie Cummins  
Executive Director  
**Organic Consumers Association**

Courtney Thomas  
President  
**PACK (Pet Animal Coalition of Kansas)**

Linda A. DeStefano  
President  
**People for Animal Rights of Central New York**

Margaret Reeves  
Senior Scientist  
**Pesticide Action Network**

Seth Horstmeyer  
Director, Reforming Industrial Animal Agriculture  
**The Pew Charitable Trusts**

Neal D. Barnard, M.D.  
President  
**Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine**

Carrie Fulghum  
General Manager  
**PLBA Housing Development Corporation (Gainesville, AL)**

Lorette Picciano  
Executive Director  
**Rural Coalition**

Hugh Moore  
Treasurer  
**San Diego County Green Party**

Debbie Sease  
National Campaigns Director  
**Sierra Club**

Kendra Kimbirauskas  
CEO  
**Socially Responsible Agricultural Project**

Dennis Rosatti  
Executive Director  
**Sonoma County Conservation Action**



David Weinberg  
Executive Director  
**Texas League of Conservation Voters**  
**Texas League of Conservation Voters Educational Fund**

Brendon McCampbell  
Chairperson  
**Union for Humans, Animals and the Environment (student organization at Fort Hays State University)**

Andrew Rosenberg, Ph.D.  
Director, Center for Science and Democracy  
**Union of Concerned Scientists**

Anne Feingold  
Director  
**The Urban Cat Project**

Kelly Hunter Foster  
Senior Attorney  
**Waterkeeper Alliance**

Anne Lieberman  
Executive Director  
**World Society for the Protection of Animals**