



NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

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Speaker
New Hampshire House
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August 5, 2013

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairman
Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee
United States Senate
133 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Frank D. Lucas
Chairman
Agriculture Committee
United States House of Representatives
2311 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee
United States Senate
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Collin Peterson
Ranking Member
Agriculture Committee
United States House of Representatives
2109 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Stabenow, Senator Cochran, Chairman Lucas and Representative Peterson:

We are writing to express our opposition to section 11312 of *H.R. 2642, Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013*, also known as the “King Amendment,” that would preempt vital state agricultural policies designed to protect the safety and well being of our farmland, waterways, forests and most importantly, our constituents.

The Tenth Amendment is the cornerstone of constitutional federalism and reserves broad powers to the states and to the people. States have used this sovereignty to enact laws that protect their citizens from invasive pests and livestock diseases, maintain quality standards for all agricultural products and ensure food safety and unadulterated seed products. The King Amendment, not only violates the tenets of the Tenth Amendment, but would also have significant economic effects across the states.

Below are just a few examples of state laws that would be preempted by the King Amendment:

Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Vermont and Wisconsin place restrictions on firewood imported from

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other states in order to protect their forests from invasive pests.

Alaska, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Washington have enacted regulations requiring the labeling of farm-raised fish.

Iowa requires the labeling of artificial sweeteners in products while New Hampshire has enacted certain specifications regarding the production of maple products.

The King amendment would target these and other state laws that were approved by state legislatures for the purpose of protecting the health and safety of consumers and the viability of our precious farmland and forests.

As you move towards a conference on the 2013 Farm bill, we urge you to reject section 11312 of *H.R. 2642, Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013*. For more information on state laws preempted by the King Amendment, please contact Ben Husch (ben.husch@ncsl.org or 202-624-7779) or Melanie Condon (melanie.condon@ncsl.org or 202-624-3597).

Sincerely,



Speaker Terie Norelli
New Hampshire House of Representatives
President, NCSL



Senator Bruce Starr
Oregon Senate
President-elect, NCSL