



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

328 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N.E.
WASHINGTON, DC 20002
PHONE 202-547-8189 • FAX 615-202-547-8190

CHUCK CANTERBURY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JAMES O. PASCO, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

27 August 2013

The Honorable Steven A. King
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

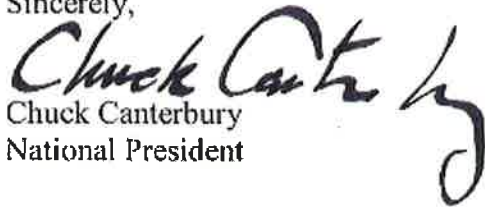
Dear Representative King,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our opposition to the amendment you included in H.R. 2642, the "Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013."

Your amendment would prohibit States from establishing animal welfare standards for agricultural products sold in-State but produced elsewhere. This language will allow for the proliferation of puppy mills, dog and cock fighting, kill shelters and other animal cruelties. Additionally, this language could also increase the criminal enterprises that often go along with these activities and make investigating these crimes more difficult. The amendment would not only endanger animals but would also preempt State laws and regulations. If your language remains part of the legislation, animals will be at a greater risk of mistreatment. The Fraternal Order of Police strongly supports State sovereignty and the authority of States to craft their own criminal codes regarding agricultural products but, in this case, States should not be able to ignore welfare laws aimed at protecting animals and fighting their criminal misuse. It is with these considerations we oppose the inclusion of this amendment to H.R. 2642.

On behalf of the more than 330,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I urge you to reconsider the potential impact this language may have for animal safety. If I can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in my Washington office.

Sincerely,


Chuck Canterbury
National President