The Honorable Collin Peterson  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Agriculture  
1305 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  

Dear Ranking Member Peterson:

We are writing to voice our strong opposition to Sec. 11312 of the House-passed Farm Bill (H.R. 2642), a provision that was offered by Rep. Steve King during Agriculture Committee mark-up. This provision threatens to undermine an untold number of duly-enacted state laws and regulations affecting agricultural production, and create uncertainty in the agriculture sector. We urge you to ensure that neither the King language nor anything like it is included in the final conference report on the Farm Bill.

We believe that Congress should not usurp the power of states to address the concerns of their citizens on animal protection or any number of other subjects. The breadth and ambiguity of Rep. King’s amendment are striking. It would nullify state laws that impose “a standard or condition” on agricultural products, and has the potential to repeal a vast array of state laws and regulations covering everything from food safety to environmental protection to child labor to animal welfare. For example, labeling and other rules for products and ingredients such as artificial sweeteners, maple syrup, milk fat, farm-raised fish, tobacco, and additives in alcohol could be swept away, as could restrictions on import of firewood carrying invasive pests, rules on pesticide exposure and lagoon siting, safety standards for farm workers handling dangerous equipment, and laws restricting practices such as the killing of sharks for their fins and the sale of dog and cat meat.

Although this legislation could have a vast impact, it has not been subject to rigorous scrutiny. Such a sweeping change in law should only be considered after a thorough hearing process and an absolute understanding of its full impact on state laws. Furthermore, the Rules Committee denied us the opportunity to have a floor debate on the issue by ruling out of order an amendment by Congressmen Denham, Schrader, Campbell, Meeks, Fitzpatrick and Cárdenas to strike the King provision.

The King amendment represents an additional layer of serious controversy on already controversial legislation. As you work with colleagues to develop a final Farm Bill package for consideration by the House and to find sufficient votes to pass it, we strongly urge you to do all you can to keep out the King amendment and any provision like it.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

KURT SCHRADER  
Member of Congress

GARY PETERS  
Member of Congress
JIM COSTA  
Member of Congress

JOHN GARAMENDI  
Member of Congress

JERRY McNERNEY  
Member of Congress

PETE GALLEGDO  
Member of Congress

HENRY CUELLAR  
Member of Congress

JULIA BROWNLEY  
Member of Congress

SUZAN DELBENE  
Member of Congress

MIKE THOMPSON  
Member of Congress

RICK NOLAN  
Member of Congress

NICK RAHAL  
Member of Congress

JARED HUFFMAN  
Member of Congress

KYRSTEN SINEMA  
Member of Congress

AMI BERA  
Member of Congress

JUAN VARGAS  
Member of Congress

BILL OWENS  
Member of Congress

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM  
Member of Congress

SAM FARR  
Member of Congress

JOE COURTNEY  
Member of Congress
EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
Member of Congress

CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
Member of Congress

SANDER LEVIN
Member of Congress

MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress

DINA TITUS
Member of Congress

SUZANNE BONAMICI
Member of Congress

DEREK KILMER
Member of Congress

ADAM SCHIFF
Member of Congress

GREGORY MEEKS
Member of Congress

RICK LARSEN
Member of Congress

CHELLIE PINGREE
Member of Congress

MIKE QUIGLEY
Member of Congress

TIM RYAN
Member of Congress

MARCY KAPTUR
Member of Congress

DONNA EDWARDS
Member of Congress

RAUL RUZ M.D.
Member of Congress

ERIC Swalwell
Member of Congress

PEDRO R. PIERLUISI
Member of Congress
CHARLIE RANGEL  
Member of Congress

RUSH HOLT  
Member of Congress

EARL BLUMENAUER  
Member of Congress

BRIAN HIGGINS  
Member of Congress

FRANK PALLONE  
Member of Congress

DAVID PRICE  
Member of Congress

BOBBY RUSH  
Member of Congress

GRACE NAPOLITANO  
Member of Congress

YVETTE CLARKE  
Member of Congress

MIKE HONDA  
Member of Congress

JOHN TIERNEY  
Member of Congress

ANNA G. ESHOO  
Member of Congress

RUBEN HINOJOSA  
Member of Congress

STEVE COHEN  
Member of Congress

MICHAEL MICHAUD  
Member of Congress

SUSAN DAVIS  
Member of Congress

JIM McGOVERN  
Member of Congress

PATRICK MURPHY  
Member of Congress
TED DEUTCH
Member of Congress

CORRINE BROWN
Member of Congress

JACKIE SPEIER
Member of Congress

FREDERICA WILSON
Member of Congress

ALLYSON SCHWARTZ
Member of Congress

MIKE DOYLE
Member of Congress

PETER DeFAZIO
Member of Congress

JANICE HAHN
Member of Congress

C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER
Member of Congress

RAUL GRIJALVA
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DONALD PAYNE JR.
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ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
Member of Congress

DENNY HECK
Member of Congress

LOIS CAPPs
Member of Congress

WILLIAM KEATING
Member of Congress

ELIZABETH ESTY
Member of Congress

JIM McDERMOTT
Member of Congress
Bobby Scott
Member of Congress

John B. Larson
Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress

Jose E. Serrano
Member of Congress

Karen Bass
Member of Congress