

April 15, 2024

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow

Chair, Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee
328-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boozman

Ranking Member, Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee
328-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable G.T. Thompson

Chair, House Agriculture Committee
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Scott

Ranking Member, House Agriculture Committee
1010 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: The Ending Agricultural Trade Suppression Act

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow, Chairman Thompson, and Ranking Members Boozman and Scott:

As public servants elected by the people to positions across local government, we ran to solve our communities' pressing problems, maximize the potential of our communities, and advocate for local priorities. Local residents and elected officials are in the unique position to create policy that is responsive to issues and events taking place within their own borders. Through collaboration, creativity and grit, we have been able to move an inspiring and effective vision for our respective jurisdictions forward.

However, federal legislation under consideration could upend that progress and stymie the ability of local governments, and of local residents by extension, to make policy that protects farmers, public health, consumers, animals and natural resources like land and water. **The Ending Agricultural Trade Suppression (EATS) Act (S.2019 and H.R.4417) is dangerous and preempts a wide scope of state and local laws**, including invasive pest protections, food quality and safety regulations as well as narcotics law and procurement regulations. Furthermore, the EATS Act flies in the face of our country's founding principle of federalism, guaranteed by the 10th Amendment.

We're proud to join the diverse and growing coalition of stakeholders that are urging Congress to oppose the EATS Act. We understand that food and farm markets are already highly consolidated, making it difficult for America's farmers to earn a living. We also know that the EATS Act will only make this dynamic worse and prohibit product differentiation, which is a critical tool in keeping family farms on their land and ensuring our nation's food security.

Our country certainly has challenges that must be addressed, and as local leaders, we are writing to maintain our rights to address those challenges at the local level. We urge you to turn your attention to real problems rather than legislation that would erode local sovereignty.

The EATS Act is not a real solution - it's simply a distraction.

Sincerely,

April Graves, Mayor, Brooklyn Center, Minnesota
Beau Harbin, County Legislator, Cortland, New York
Bonnie Billings, Councilmember, Midvale, Utah
Brenda Adams, Town Supervisor, Canaan, New York
Caroline Torosis, Councilmember, Santa Monica, California
Damon Seils, Mayor, Carrboro, North Carolina
Danett Abbott-Wicker, County Commissioner, Orange County, California
Flavia DeBrito, City Councilmember, Waterville, Maine
Genesis Ramos, County Legislator, Newburgh, New York
Giselle Martinez, Councilmember, Newburgh, New York
Gregory Young, County Supervisor, Gloversville, New York
Ivan Diaz, County Commissioner, Kent County, Michigan
Jasmine Bowles, School Board Member, Clayton County, Georgia
Jenn Weaver, Mayor, Hillsborough, North Carolina
Joseph Van Wye, Commissioner, Advisory Neighborhood Council, Washington D.C.
Karen McClelland, School Board Member, Sedona, Arizona
Katherine Golub, Councilmember, Greenfield, Massachusetts
Kimberly Wilburn, Councilmember, Hopkins, Minnesota
Matthew LeFluer, Vermont Equity Ambassador and Commission Member, Alburgh, Vermont
Michael Chameides, Supervisor, Hudson, New York
Ligia Andrade Zuniga, School Board Trustee and Commissioner, San Mateo, California
Pious Ali, Councilor At Large, Portland, Maine
Robin Wilt, Councilmember, Brighton, New York
Sabrina Javellana, Former Vice Mayor, Hallandale Beach, Florida
Sue Budd, Coucilmember, St. Louis Park, Minnesota
Tistrya Houghtling, County Supervisor, Columbia County, New York
Tom Powers, Town Board Member, New Lebanon, New York
Veronica Pillar, County Legislator, Ithaca, New York
Yterenickia Bell, Councilmember, Clarkston, Georgia

CC: Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture