

In more than a dozen states across the U.S., voters and legislators have passed laws protecting farmed animals from some of the most egregious cruelty in the factory farming industry: intensive confinement in systems such as gestation crates, veal crates, and battery cages. Other states are currently considering similar legislation.

Now, federal lawmakers have introduced a bill that would likely jeopardize these humane reforms. The bill, known as the Ending Agricultural Trade Suppression (EATS) Act ( H.R. 4417/ S. 2019), could strip states and localities of their right to impose standards or conditions on the production or manufacturing of agricultural products sold or offered for sale in interstate commerce when those standards differ from federal law or the laws of other states.

If this dangerous bill were to become law, years' worth of legislative victories for farmed animals at the state level could be imperiled. If passed, laws in Oregon and Washington banning the confinement of hens in cruel battery cages could be nullified, as well as Oregon's banning of gestation crates for pigs. The dangerous EATS Act would undermine states' ability to pass laws affecting agriculture, including laws that improve conditions for farmed animals and protect food safety. The bill's broad language could also jeopardize state laws that, for example, are designed to protect dogs from the cruelty of puppy mills, promote food and food packaging safety, protect rural communities, and preserve our environment.

The EATS Act is similar to legislation in previous sessions of Congress that came to be known as the "King Amendment," named after its sponsor, then-Representative Steve King of Iowa. A broad coalition of advocates for animal protection, food safety, consumer protection, environmental preservation, and rural communities, as well as small farmers, staunchly opposed the King Amendment and helped ensure its defeat in both 2014 and 2018. It's critical that animal advocates help defeat the EATS Act as well.

## **YOUR ACTION IS NEEDED TO HELP DEFEAT A DANGEROUS BILL!**

Urge your Representative to respect the will of voters and court rulings and reject the inclusion of the EATS Act language in the House Farm Bill. Landmark farmed animal protection laws—such as California's Proposition 12, which addresses the crudest forms of animal confinement on factory farms—could be invalidated should this bill become law.

Please take action today to urge your lawmakers to oppose this dangerous bill! Go to <https://secure.farmsanctuary.org/action/stop-eats-act-now>, where you'll find a sample message you can send, but remember, personalized messages are the most effective.

Visit the Animal Legal Defense Fund's site to learn more about the [issues farmed animals face on industrial farms](#) and to learn more about the [EATS Act](#).