

California State Legislature



November 15, 2013

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Majority Whip
2421 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Democratic Leader
235 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Whip McCarthy & Democratic Leader Pelosi,

As the Congress seeks to complete its work on the Farm Bill, we write urging you to do everything you can to remove a provision that threatens the rights and values of so many Californians. The amendment introduced by Rep. Steve King of Iowa, (Section 11312 of HR 2642) which was approved in the House-passed bill, threatens to nullify dozens of duly enacted state laws dealing with the manufacturing of agricultural products.

The language in the provision is vague and broad in scope. If enacted, it would undermine California's ability to carry out its food and environmental safety requirements and standards and its ability to ensure that only safe, nutritious and healthy food is sold in the state. If the Farm Bill were to pass with this provision intact, there would not be one sector of the food and agriculture community that would go unaffected. This provision could allow for the introduction of invasive pests and diseases from other states and lower quality food that does not meet California's specific standards.

Additionally, in California, we have recently enacted state laws to restrict the trade in shark fins which is decimating shark populations worldwide; to improve food safety and animal health by regulating all hens in egg laying industry; to ban the force-feeding of ducks and geese for foie gras; and many others. All of these laws could be in jeopardy, as well as the right of state legislators and voters to duly deliberate on and decide these issues in the future, if the King amendment is enacted.

The provision is such an infringement on states' rights that it is opposed by the National Conference of State Legislators, the County Executives of America, the National Sheriffs' Association, the Fraternal Order of Police, and more than 90 other groups. We hope you will do everything in your power to remove this overreaching King amendment, and protect our voices here in California and our ability to ensure the health and safety of our constituents, animal welfare and the environment.

As the conference committee considers the Farm Bill legislation in the coming weeks, we urge you to consider this bipartisan opposition and work to remove the King amendment. This provision is a threat to state's rights and will have devastating implications to California and the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrell Steinberg".

Senator Darrell Steinberg
President Pro Tempore

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony Rendon".

Assemblymember Anthony Rendon
Chair, Water Parks & Wildlife Committee

Bob Huff
Signature
Bob Huff, Senator, 29th
Print Name & District

Roger Dickinson
Signature
Roger Dickinson, 7th District
Print Name & District

Adam Gray
Signature
Adam Gray, 21st District
Print Name & District

Brian Dahle
Signature
BRIAN DAHLE, 1st Dist
Print Name & District

Kevin Mullin
Signature
Kevin Mullin, 22nd
Print Name & District

Joan Buchanan
Signature
Joan Buchanan, AD 10
Print Name & District

Wesley Chesbro
Signature
Wesley Chesbro #02
Print Name & District

Jim Beall
Signature
Jim BEALL S.D. 15
Print Name & District

Anthony Cannella
Signature
Anthony Cannella SDR
Print Name & District

Das Williams
Signature
Das Williams, AD 37
Print Name & District

Manto Yamada
Signature
MASK LENO
Print Name & District

Manto Yamada
Signature
Manto Yamada AD 04
Print Name & District

Nancy Skinner
Signature
Nancy Skinner, AD 15
Print Name & District

Ed Chau
Signature
Ed Chau AD 99
Print Name & District

Jan Calderon
Signature
Jan Calderon, AD 57
Print Name & District

Richard S. Gordon
Signature
RICHARD S. GORDON, AD 24
Print Name & District


Jose Medina
Signature
Jose Medina, AD 61
Print Name & District

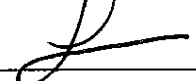
Luis A. Alejo
Signature
Luis A. Alejo AD 30
Print Name & District


Susan Bonilla
Signature
Susan Bonilla AD 14
Print Name & District


Carol Liu
Signature
Carol Liu, 25 SD
Print Name & District


Joint California Legislature Letter – King Amendment, Page 3

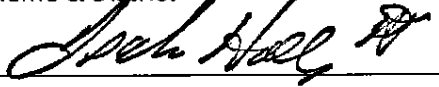

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 STEVE FOX, 36TH ASSEMBLY DIST.
 Print Name & District

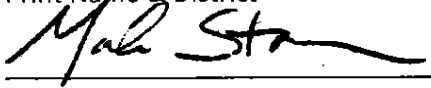

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 Lorena Gonzalez, 80th District
 Print Name & District

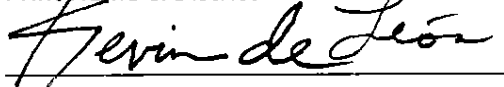

 Signature
 Ricardo Lara, 33rd Senate District
 Print Name & District


 Signature
 Rob Bonta, 18th Assembly District
 Print Name & District


 Signature
 Paul Bocanegra, 39th AD
 Print Name & District

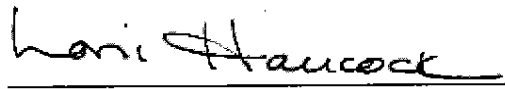

 Signature
 Isidore Hall III, 64th AD
 Print Name & District

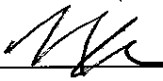

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 Mark Stone, 29th AD
 Print Name & District

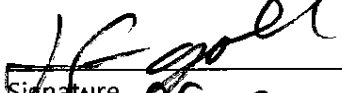

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 Kevin de León, 22nd SD
 Print Name & District

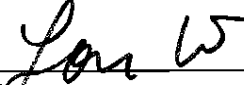
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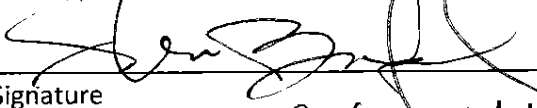

 Signature
 LONNI HANCOCK, 9th SENATE DIST.
 Print Name & District

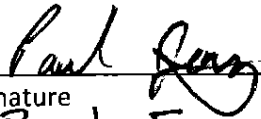

 Signature
 Richard PAN, 9th District
 Print Name & District


 Signature
 Jeff Gonell AD 44
 Print Name & District


 Signature
 Lois Wolk 3rd Senate District
 Print Name & District


 Signature
 Richard Bloom, 50th AD
 Print Name & District


 Signature
 Steven Bradford, 12th AD
 Print Name & District


 Signature
 Paul Fong, 28th AD
 Print Name & District

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