



Fact Sheet: Stop Rep. King's H.R. 4879/3599

- H.R. 4879/3599, the “Protect Interstate Commerce Act,” introduced as an amendment to the 2018 Farm Bill in the U.S. House of Representatives by Rep. Steve King (R-IA), seeks to negate most state and local laws regarding the production or manufacture of agricultural products.
- This legislation furthers the globalization of the food system by removing the people’s and states’ rights to protect their businesses and way of life.
- H.R. 4879/3599 would limit consumer choice, negate the ability of local governments to protect citizens, and sacrifice market opportunities for family farmers, only to benefit a few corporate agribusiness interests.

What Does H.R. 4879/3599 Do?

This legislation would eliminate hundreds of democratically-passed state and local laws and dismantle states’ ability to promote local agricultural development. An extreme federal overreach, this legislation fulfills industrial agriculture’s interest in stopping family farmers from differentiating their products, prevents states from taking action to stop destructive events like the Dicamba drift crisis, and stops local governments from protecting the health of rural communities. **Virtually any state or local law that promotes family farm products or protects rural communities from large agribusinesses could be wiped out.**

A few examples of laws that would be negated include:

- Labeling and sale criteria for maple syrup, farm raised fish, raw milk, and many more
- Farm production standards related to the transport of commodities and livestock, farm labor safeguards and agriculture chemical use standards
- Farmer and rural community protections like bans on importing diseased product (firewood, bee colonies, etc.), fertilizer application standards, and fencing requirements
- Consumer protection such as BPA-free baby food containers, perishable food labeling, and labeling of consumer chemicals known to cause birth defects

H.R. 4879/3599 Ignores Founding Principles

An attack on states’ rights, this legislation violates the 10th Amendment and would more aptly be called the “States’ Rights Elimination Act.” Historically, under the U.S. Constitution, states maintain broad power to protect the health, safety, and welfare of their citizens by regulating the sale of goods and services within their borders. The courts have judged these issues and affirmed the states’ rights to pass laws to protect their citizens and to reflect the public will on a wide range of concerns. Congress should not tread on this basic federalist principle and the powers retained by the states. **H.R. 4879/3599 tramples on the fundamental principles that have guided our nation since its founding to benefit corporate agribusiness special interests.**

STAND WITH FAMILY FARMERS AND RURAL COMMUNITIES. OPPOSE H.R. 4879/3599.