



May 10, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
1233 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Michael Conaway
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture
United States House of Representatives
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives
233 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Collin Peterson
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture
United States House of Representatives
1305 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: H.R. 2 – The Agriculture & Nutrition Act of 2018

Dear Speaker Ryan, Democratic Leader Pelosi, Chairman Conaway, and Ranking Member Peterson:

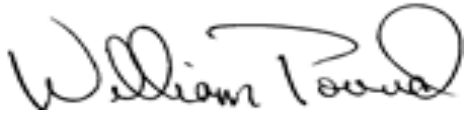
On behalf of the national organizations representing state and local elected officials, we write to voice our strong concern over the Protect Interstate Commerce Act of 2018 amendment which was included in H.R. 2, The Agriculture & Nutrition Act of 2018 by Representative Steve King (R-Iowa). If passed, this provision would preempt state and local agricultural laws and statutes that aim to protect our nation's working lands and the health and welfare of our constituents.

As part of our nation's intergovernmental system, we are entrusted with ensuring the strength and stability of our respective communities. This provision in the farm bill would weaken our ability as state and local partners to protect the health and general welfare of our citizens.

The 10th Amendment is the cornerstone of constitutional federalism. States and local governments have used this authority to enact laws that protect our citizens from a wide array of threats including invasive pests and livestock diseases, while maintaining quality standards for agricultural products and ensuring food safety. As the levels of government closest to the people, state and local governments know the unique needs of our individual communities. The Protect Interstate Commerce Act of 2018 threatens this relationship by seeking to establish a legal precedence against broader areas of state and local regulatory authority.

As Congress continues to work towards a new farm bill, **we strongly urge you to uphold the 10th Amendment and remove Representative King's provision in the final bill.**

Sincerely,



William Pound
Executive Director
National Conference of State Legislatures



Matthew D. Chase
Executive Director
National Association of Counties



Clarence E. Anthony
CEO and Executive Director
National League of Cities



Marc A. Ott
Executive Director
International City/County Management Association