

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 11, 2021

The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable Merrick Garland  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Secretary Vilsack and Attorney General Garland:

We write to urge you to withdraw the amicus curiae briefs filed by the Trump Administration in two cases challenging California's Proposition 12, which sets humane standards for farm animal products sold in California. The briefs were filed in two cases in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, *National Pork Producers Council v. Ross* and *North American Meat Institute v. Becerra*.

The Trump Administration's efforts to overturn this popular California law are fundamentally inconsistent with long-standing judicial precedent, and if adopted, threaten to derail numerous critical health, safety, environmental protection, and animal welfare regulations in dozens of states. Just a small sample of state laws that could be subverted include regulations governing the sale of alcoholic beverages, wildlife protections, child labor, dangerous pesticides, pollutants, and puppy mills. Prompt withdrawal of these briefs is imperative as they directly undermine decades of federalism and constitutional law precedent that preserves the states' power to serve as laboratories of democracy, where they can advance new policies to protect their citizens.

In light of the serious and needless threats to states' authority to protect the well-being of their citizens, the environment, and animal welfare, we request that you immediately withdraw the previous administration's amicus briefs filed in *National Pork Producers Council v. Ross* and *North American Meat Institute v. Becerra*. Furthermore, we ask that you advise the Supreme Court that it should not take up the North American Meat Institute's appeal if the Court requests the Administration's input on the current petition for certiorari in that case.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



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Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



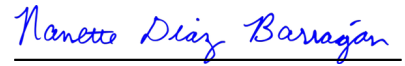
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Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



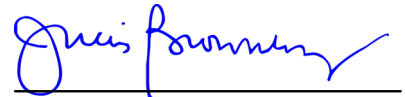
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Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



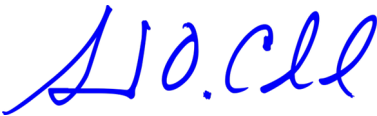
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Karen Bass  
Member of Congress



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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



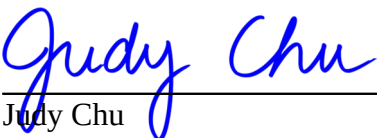
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Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



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Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress



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Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



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J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress




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Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



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Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



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Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



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Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



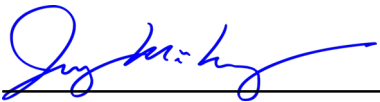
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Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



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Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



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Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress



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Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



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Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



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Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



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Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress



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Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



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Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress



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Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



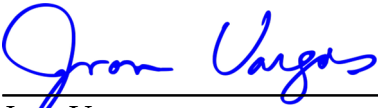
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MARK TAKANO  
Member of Congress



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Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress



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Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress