

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 25, 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, SW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Secretary Vilsack and Attorney General Garland,

We are writing to urge you to withdraw two amicus curiae briefs filed by the Trump Administration in two Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Cases, *North American Meat Institute v. Becerra* and *National Pork Council v. Ross*. We also ask that you advise the U.S. Supreme Court not to take up the appeal if the Court requests a Solicitor General opinion on whether to grant certiorari. These cases challenge California's Proposition 12, which sets humane standards for farm animal products sold in California.

These challenges to Proposition 12 and the Trump Administration's arguments as laid out in the briefs undermine decades of federalism precedent by attacking the ability of states to promote the health and safety of their citizens. The state of Colorado has a law similar to Proposition 12 that requires humane egg-laying hen confinement standards for eggs produced or sold in Colorado – a law that was passed to promote basic animal welfare, protect Coloradans' health, and keep our farmers competitive. This law and many others like it in dozens of states are at risk should these cases proceed and overturn Proposition 12.

Due to the threat they pose to Colorado's authority to protect its environment, its citizens, and animal welfare, we ask that you immediately withdraw the amicus curiae briefs filed in *North American Meat Institute v. Becerra* and *National Pork Council v. Ross*.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress



Jason Crow  
Member of Congress