

June XX, 2021

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

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

Dear Secretary Vilsack and Attorney General Garland:

We write to urge you to withdraw the Trump administration's 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals amicus briefs ("DOJ briefs") in support of the appellants in *National Pork Producers Council v. Ross*, and *North American Meat Institute v. Becerra*. The case at issue concerns California Proposition 12, which sets certain minimum humane and health and safety standards for certain animal products sold in California. Proposition 12 shares many substantive similarities with cage-free sales laws in Oregon, Washington, Michigan, Colorado, Nevada, and Massachusetts. Those laws were supported by broad, diverse coalitions of stakeholders. A harmful ruling on these cases would undermine all of these state laws and others like them, as well as the significant investments companies have made towards protecting consumer preferences and the health, safety and welfare of animals and the environment.

The Trump administration and national meat industry's efforts to overturn this popular law are fundamentally inconsistent with long-standing judicial precedent. If adopted, they threaten to derail numerous critical health, safety, environmental protection, and animal welfare regulations in dozens of states including ours. Furthermore, farmers in our districts have spent hundreds of millions of dollars to convert to cage-free farming, and a reversal of these laws would be economically devastating.

In light of the serious and needless threats to states' authority to protect consumer preferences and the well-being of the environment and animals, we request that you immediately withdraw the previous administration's amicus briefs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,