

The Honorable Representative \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Senators \_\_\_\_\_  
The U.S. Senate, U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_ and

Senators \_\_\_\_\_:

I am a registered voter in your district who firmly opposes Section 123 of the imminent House Farm Bill. This careless stipulation blocks states from implementing their usual authority to ban practices judged adverse to public health, safety, and ethics.

Section 123 means states could no longer prohibit horse slaughter for human consumption or the intensive confinement of animals on factory farms. Section 123 strips states of their power to police trafficking in exotic wild animals — an underground trade already outlawed in several states due to public endangerment and animal cruelty concerns.

Section 123 undercuts the democratic system. It sacrifices the right of citizens to pursue state or local laws regarding humane conduct or food safety. For example, many citizens disapprove of routine agricultural practices that disallow sufficient space and movement for animals.

Modern hog factories warehouse 600-pound sows in metal gestation stalls. Veal calves are chained by the neck inside two-foot-wide crates, unable to shift positions, flex muscles or die down with ease.

In November 2006, Arizona voters enacted measures to ban cruel veal crates and gestation crates for pregnant pigs. In 2002, a citizen initiative in Florida also outlawed gestation crates for breeding pigs.

If the Farm Bill containing Section 123 passes, it invalidates current state or municipal bans on gestation and veal crates, the forced tube feeding of ducks and geese to produce foie gras, and horse slaughter.

I respectfully implore you do everything possible to overturn Section 123 and any language that preempts state and local animal protection laws.

Thank you,