



February 28, 2018

The Honorable Michael Conaway  
Chairman  
Committee on Agriculture  
United States House of Representatives  
1301 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 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. 4879 – The Protect Interstate Commerce Act

Dear Chairman Conaway and Ranking Member Peterson:

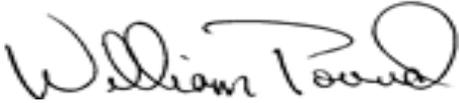
On behalf of the state and local elected and appointed officials that our national organizations represent, we write to voice our strong opposition to H.R. 4879, the Protect Interstate Commerce Act of 2018. The bill would pre-empt state and local agricultural laws and statutes that aim to protect the safety and well-being of our nation's farmland, waterways, forests and, most importantly, the health and welfare of our members' constituents.

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, 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 often have a greater understanding of the needs of their individual communities. H.R. 4879 threatens this relationship by seeking to establish a legal precedence against broader areas of state and local regulatory authority.

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This is not a Commerce Clause issue, but rather an effort which would weaken the sovereignty of state and local governments to protect the health and general welfare of its citizens. **We urge Congress to uphold the 10th Amendment and oppose H.R. 4879.**

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