

June 10, 2026

The Honorable John Boozman
Chairman
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Senate Agriculture Committee Members
U.S. Senate
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

U.S. Senate Members
Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Boozman, Ranking Member Klobuchar, and Distinguished Members of the Senate Agriculture Committee:

We write as 212 faith leaders from 30 denominations and faith traditions, spanning 34 states and Washington, D.C., and are joined by 25 faith organizations. For millennia, our traditions have called those in power to account for how they treat the most vulnerable. Today, we write to you not as partisans but as moral witnesses: **Section 12006 of the House Farm Bill, the "Save Our Bacon" ("SOB") amendment, is wrong, and we call on you to remove it.** Our communities span Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Unitarian Universalist, Unity, and Jain traditions. We do not agree on everything. But we agree on this.

What This Amendment Does

The SOB amendment could preempt over 600+ state and local laws, including laws that seek to prevent disease outbreaks, regulate the importation of livestock, and ban sales of products that cities and states have determined result from cruelty.

SOB is not a modest or technical provision. **It is a sweeping federal intervention designed to protect one industry's profits from the informed moral discernment of the American people.** When citizens overwhelmingly judge the most intensive confinement practices incompatible with mercy, they should be free to say so in law. This amendment would deny them that right.

Our Scriptures and Traditions Do Not Allow Us to Be Silent

Across religious traditions, concern for animals' unnecessary suffering is a longstanding moral value.

Jewish law's principle of *tza'ar ba'alei chayim* prohibits causing unnecessary suffering to animals. Proverbs 12:10 teaches that "a righteous person knows the needs of their animal," reflecting the moral obligation to attend to the well-being of domesticated creatures.

The Christian tradition entrusts humanity with dominion: not unchecked exploitation, but the stewardship of a guardian (Genesis 1:26-28). The Psalmist proclaims: "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it" (Psalm 24:1). Jesus taught that every sparrow is valued by God (Luke 12:6). We are creation's caretakers.

Islamic teaching speaks of *khalifa*: humanity as God's vicegerent on earth, charged with justice and mercy toward all of God's creation. The Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, taught that there is a reward for every act of mercy shown to a living creature (Sahih al-Bukhari 2466; Sahih Muslim 2244).

Buddhist and Hindu teachings place *ahimsa*, non-harm, at the center of an ethical life. Hindu tradition grounds that imperative in *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*, the recognition that all living beings are kin. For Buddhists, reducing suffering is not optional: it is the path.

The gestation crate is a metal box so small that a pig cannot turn around. She is stressed, frustrated, and sore, without relief for years of her life. Across our traditions and American society, it is understood that causing extreme suffering for the sake of profit is a moral failure. SOB would reinstate that practice and shield it from democratic accountability. We cannot be silent about it.

This Is Not a New Fight

The pork industry has attempted the same federal preemption before: through the King Amendment in 2013 and 2018, the EATS Act as standalone legislation in 2023-24, and seven lawsuits against California and Massachusetts, one of which reached the U.S. Supreme Court. Each legislative attempt failed, and the conservative SCOTUS ruled in favor of California in 2023. Now, having exhausted all avenues, the pork industry persuaded the House Rules Committee to *block a floor vote on an amendment that would have removed SOB, and had enough publicly committed supporters to pass*, even while the Rules Committee permitted 57 other amendments.

That is not good-faith policymaking. **People of faith have a name for it: injustice.**

Widespread Opposition

Prominent conservatives, including [Laura Ingraham](#), [Tomi Lahren](#), [Mike Cernovich](#), and [Glenn Greenwald](#), and liberals, including [Nicholas Kristof](#) and [Steven Pinker](#), are speaking out against SOB. Opposition in the House came from Representatives Luna, Mace, and Garbarino, as well as Representatives McGovern, Costa, and Craig. And Senators Warren, Markey, Booker, Padilla, and Schiff are opposing this dangerous language as well.

After all, the first states to ban the practice that industrial pork producers are trying to protect, confining mother pigs in gestation crates for months on end, were conservative states, including Florida (2002) and Arizona (2006). Progressive states, including California and Massachusetts, followed. Believing in humane dominion over the animals is truly a non-partisan issue.

Conclusion: A Moral Line

We are not single-issue voters. We care about hunger, poverty, and the farmers and workers who feed this country. We do not come to this letter as adversaries of agriculture.

But we know a moral line when we see one. Billions of animals live and die within the American food system. They experience fear and pain. They have no voice in the halls of power, and so we as faith leaders must use ours. The Save Our Bacon amendment asks the Senate to be the instrument by which the democratic voice of Americans on this question is permanently silenced.

Guided by the values at the heart of our respective traditions, we implore you to ensure that NO iteration of “Save Our Bacon” is part of any Farm Bill.

Respectfully submitted,

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Reconstructionist Synagogue of the North Shore, Manhasset, NY

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Hillsborough, NC

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