



March 8, 2024

The Honorable Chris Todd
425 Rep. John Lewis Way N
Suite 526 Cordell Hull Bldg
Nashville, TN 37243

Representative Todd –

On behalf of Tennessee's livestock farmers and the entire agriculture industry, we write to express our concern for the potential repercussions of HB2801. As a member of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, we hope you see the value which safe and healthy livestock play in Tennessee's \$89 billion agriculture industry. When combined, the beef and dairy cattle, pork, and poultry industry in our state brought in over \$1.87 billion in cash receipts in 2021, and 41% of the production value in agriculture is tied to livestock production.

For decades, our industry has been fighting to keep detrimental disease at bay and prevent it from entering our farms and nation's shores. Unfortunately, other countries have not been as lucky. There are numerous diseases which lurk in the distance, awaiting opportunity to enter our state's food supply – two of which are African Swine Fever (ASF) and Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD).

African Swine Fever (ASF) is a high-threat foreign animal disease which is highly transmissible and according to the US Department of Homeland Security results in a 100% mortality in swine and is why the department refers to it as an emerging transboundary threat. This disease is in over 50 countries, and the effects of its spread can significantly increase the risk of spread to disease free countries – one of which being the United States. The United States is currently free from disease and is the world's largest pork exporter. While there is not yet a vaccine, many companies are in the research and development process and once this vaccine becomes available producers will need this technology.

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is a highly contagious disease which affects domestic and wild cloven-hoofed animals including beef/dairy cattle, swine, sheep, goats, deer, and buffalo/bison. FMD is considered a foreign animal disease because animals here within the US have not been affected since 1929. Since FMD is a reportable disease, counties where the disease is present cannot trade susceptible animals (not just those which are infected) or their products to countries which are considered FMD-free. If FMD were to find its way to Tennessee, there would not only be a significant economic impact, but all related agriculture exports would be greatly impacted.

Livestock farmers are intertwined with farmers in other states. Farmers rely on buyers and suppliers from other states as livestock move through the supply chain from farm to fork. The unintended consequence of this legislation would be to slow or even stop the commerce of the entire livestock industry in what would be our darkest hours. When we face these types of diseases, the state veterinarian's office must be able to prove to other state veterinarians we have sufficiently stopped the spread of the disease before other states will allow movement of livestock from Tennessee to their states. Furthermore, this proposal could risk farmers ability to participate in federal disaster programs.

By maintaining the authority of the state veterinarian to mandate vaccinations in cases of foreign and program animal disease such as those listed above, among others, the animal agriculture industry finds itself wide open to risk and potential loss. Tennessee is a leader in the nation in animal health, a reputation which should not be thwarted. We appreciate your attention to this national security matter and would ask you to **oppose** HB2801 when it comes before you in committee.

Regards,

Farm Animal Care Coalition of Tennessee
Livestock Marketing Association
Tennessee Cattlemen's Association
Tennessee Corn Growers Association
Tennessee Dairy Producers Association
Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation
Tennessee Pork Producers Association
Tennessee Poultry Association
Tennessee Soybean Association
Tennessee Veterinary Medicine Association

Enclosures:

US Department of Homeland Security Brief – Foot and Mouth Disease
US Department of Homeland Security Brief – African Swine Fever



March 8, 2024

The Honorable Tandy Darby
425 Rep. John Lewis Way N
Suite 676 Cordell Hull Bldg
Nashville, TN 37243

Representative Darby –

On behalf of Tennessee's livestock farmers and the entire agriculture industry, we write to express our concern for the potential repercussions of HB2801. As a member of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, we hope you see the value which safe and healthy livestock play in Tennessee's \$89 billion agriculture industry. When combined, the beef and dairy cattle, pork, and poultry industry in our state brought in over \$1.87 billion in cash receipts in 2021, and 41% of the production value in agriculture is tied to livestock production.

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Enclosures:

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March 8, 2024

The Honorable Monty Fritts
425 Rep. John Lewis Way N
Suite 430 Cordell Hull Bldg
Nashville, TN 37243

Representative Fritts –

On behalf of Tennessee’s livestock farmers and the entire agriculture industry, we write to express our concern for the potential repercussions of HB2801. As a member of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, we hope you see the value which safe and healthy livestock play in Tennessee’s \$89 billion agriculture industry. When combined, the beef and dairy cattle, pork, and poultry industry in our state brought in over \$1.87 billion in cash receipts in 2021, and 41% of the production value in agriculture is tied to livestock production.

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March 8, 2024

The Honorable Rusty Grills
425 Rep. John Lewis Way N
Suite 650 Cordell Hull Bldg
Nashville, TN 37243

Representative Grills –

On behalf of Tennessee’s livestock farmers and the entire agriculture industry, we write to express our concern for the potential repercussions of HB2801. As a member of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, we hope you see the value which safe and healthy livestock play in Tennessee’s \$89 billion agriculture industry. When combined, the beef and dairy cattle, pork, and poultry industry in our state brought in over \$1.87 billion in cash receipts in 2021, and 41% of the production value in agriculture is tied to livestock production.

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Enclosures:

US Department of Homeland Security Brief – Foot and Mouth Disease
US Department of Homeland Security Brief – African Swine Fever



March 8, 2024

The Honorable G.A. Hardaway
425 Rep. John Lewis Way N
Suite 404 Cordell Hull Bldg
Nashville, TN 37243

Representative Hardaway –

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Enclosures:

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US Department of Homeland Security Brief – African Swine Fever



March 8, 2024

The Honorable Torrey Harris
425 Rep. John Lewis Way N
Suite 420 Cordell Hull Bldg
Nashville, TN 37243

Representative Harris –

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Enclosures:

US Department of Homeland Security Brief – Foot and Mouth Disease
US Department of Homeland Security Brief – African Swine Fever



March 8, 2024

The Honorable Bud Hulse
425 Rep. John Lewis Way N
Suite 564 Cordell Hull Bldg
Nashville, TN 37243

Representative Hulse –

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Enclosures:

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US Department of Homeland Security Brief – African Swine Fever



March 8, 2024

The Honorable Chris Hurt
425 Rep. John Lewis Way N
Suite 500 Cordell Hull Bldg
Nashville, TN 37243

Representative Hurt –

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Enclosures:

US Department of Homeland Security Brief – Foot and Mouth Disease
US Department of Homeland Security Brief – African Swine Fever



March 8, 2024

The Honorable Justin Jones
425 Rep. John Lewis Way N
Suite 422 Cordell Hull Bldg
Nashville, TN 37243

Representative Jones –

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March 8, 2024

The Honorable Pat Marsh
425 Rep. John Lewis Way N
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Representative Marsh –

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Tennessee Soybean Association
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Enclosures:

US Department of Homeland Security Brief – Foot and Mouth Disease
US Department of Homeland Security Brief – African Swine Fever



March 8, 2024

The Honorable Brock Martin
425 Rep. John Lewis Way N
Suite 652 Cordell Hull Bldg
Nashville, TN 37243

Representative Martin –

On behalf of Tennessee's livestock farmers and the entire agriculture industry, we write to express our concern for the potential repercussions of HB2801. As a member of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, we hope you see the value which safe and healthy livestock play in Tennessee's \$89 billion agriculture industry. When combined, the beef and dairy cattle, pork, and poultry industry in our state brought in over \$1.87 billion in cash receipts in 2021, and 41% of the production value in agriculture is tied to livestock production.

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Enclosures:

US Department of Homeland Security Brief – Foot and Mouth Disease
US Department of Homeland Security Brief – African Swine Fever



March 8, 2024

The Honorable Jay Reedy
425 Rep. John Lewis Way N
Suite 402 Cordell Hull Bldg
Nashville, TN 37243

Representative Reedy –

On behalf of Tennessee’s livestock farmers and the entire agriculture industry, we write to express our concern for the potential repercussions of HB2801. As a member of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, we hope you see the value which safe and healthy livestock play in Tennessee’s \$89 billion agriculture industry. When combined, the beef and dairy cattle, pork, and poultry industry in our state brought in over \$1.87 billion in cash receipts in 2021, and 41% of the production value in agriculture is tied to livestock production.

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Enclosures:

US Department of Homeland Security Brief – Foot and Mouth Disease
US Department of Homeland Security Brief – African Swine Fever



March 8, 2024

The Honorable Bryan Richey
425 Rep. John Lewis Way N
Suite 424 Cordell Hull Bldg
Nashville, TN 37243

Representative Richey –

On behalf of Tennessee’s livestock farmers and the entire agriculture industry, we write to express our concern for the potential repercussions of HB2801. As a member of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, we hope you see the value which safe and healthy livestock play in Tennessee’s \$89 billion agriculture industry. When combined, the beef and dairy cattle, pork, and poultry industry in our state brought in over \$1.87 billion in cash receipts in 2021, and 41% of the production value in agriculture is tied to livestock production.

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Enclosures:

US Department of Homeland Security Brief – Foot and Mouth Disease
US Department of Homeland Security Brief – African Swine Fever



March 8, 2024

The Honorable Johnny Shaw
425 Rep. John Lewis Way N
Suite 570 Cordell Hull Bldg
Nashville, TN 37243

Representative Shaw –

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Enclosures:

US Department of Homeland Security Brief – Foot and Mouth Disease
US Department of Homeland Security Brief – African Swine Fever



March 8, 2024

The Honorable Ron Travis
425 Rep. John Lewis Way N
Suite 534 Cordell Hull Bldg
Nashville, TN 37243

Representative Travis –

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Enclosures:

US Department of Homeland Security Brief – Foot and Mouth Disease
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March 8, 2024

The Honorable Greg Vital
425 Rep. John Lewis Way N
Suite 432 Cordell Hull Bldg
Nashville, TN 37243

Representative Vital –

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Enclosures:

US Department of Homeland Security Brief – Foot and Mouth Disease
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March 8, 2024

The Honorable Dave Wright
425 Rep. John Lewis Way N
Suite 588 Cordell Hull Bldg
Nashville, TN 37243

Representative Wright –

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