

The Honorable Roy A. Cooper III  
North Carolina Office of the Governor  
20301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Re: S711

Dear Governor Cooper,

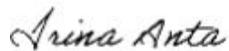
Our organizations respectfully urge you to veto Senate bill 711, the Farm Act of 2018. This bill would close the courts to vulnerable North Carolinians disparately affected by agricultural and forestry-related pollution and unnecessarily interfere with the market for plant-based milk. Please veto this unjustifiable giveaway to agricultural special interests.

Section 10 of Senate bill 711 would amend and expand your state's "right to farm" law to effectively strip North Carolinians of the right to file environmental nuisance lawsuits against agricultural operations. If S711 is enacted, rural communities who live near hog factory farms—largely low-income people of color—would have virtually no recourse against a statewide epidemic of harmful odor, air, and water pollution caused by industrial hog farming. The North Carolina legislature should pass laws that protect its citizens from this epidemic. Instead, S711 would virtually eliminate what few protections citizens currently have.

Additionally, Section 6 proposes a 12-state "embargo" on any soy, almond, or other plant-based products marketed with the word "milk." This is an unwarranted attempt to interfere with the growing plant-based food industry, an industry supported by investments from prominent animal agriculture companies like Cargill and Tyson. Consumers have relied on terms like "soy milk" for over 70 years, seeking out these products for the taste and the environmental and animal welfare benefits that plant-based options provide. As with peanut or almond "butter," consumers already understand that soy or almond "milk" is dairy-free. A statewide ban on the use of these popular terms would unnecessarily burden businesses, cause widespread consumer confusion, and raise serious constitutional concerns.

In short, S711 would hurt animals, the environment, the economy, and North Carolinians themselves. Please reject this transparent attempt to shield the dairy and hog industries from public accountability and free-market competition. We urge you to veto S711.

Sincerely,



Irina Anta  
Counsel  
Compassion Over Killing



Gene Baur  
President and Cofounder  
Farm Sanctuary



Vandhana Bala  
Senior Vice President of Programs  
and General Counsel  
Mercy For Animals



Wendy Watts  
General Counsel  
The Humane League



Josh Balk  
Vice President, Farm Animal Protection  
The Humane Society of the United States