



AG STEVE MARSHALL JOINS LAWSUITS PROTECTING ALABAMA AND OTHER STATES FROM UNCONSTITUTIONAL FARMING REGULATIONS IMPOSED BY CALIFORNIA AND MASSACHUSETTS

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Steve Marshall announced that Alabama has joined two lawsuits this month challenging attempts by California and Massachusetts to impose their agricultural restrictions on farmers in other states, including Alabama.

“States and their residents have the right to set their own standards for the production of agricultural goods, especially for reasons of health and safety,” said Attorney General Marshall. “However, they don’t have the right to impose restrictions on how products from other states are raised, which is what California and Massachusetts have done. Through a series of referendums, both states have attempted to impose costly restrictions on the production of certain agriculture products coming from outside their states and sold within their borders.

“California’s and Massachusetts’ efforts to regulate farming in other states violate the Commerce Clause of the Constitution which gives Congress the authority to regulate commerce among the states,” Attorney General Marshall added. “If allowed to go unchallenged, such unconstitutional regulations could adversely affect all forms of commerce between states. The citizens of Alabama should not have to live by the liberal edicts of California and Massachusetts. I have joined two separate lawsuits filed before the U.S. Supreme Court this month aimed at preventing California and Massachusetts from imposing their will on the rest of America.”

On December 5, 2017, Alabama joined 12 other states in filing a [lawsuit](#) against the State of California for requiring that eggs sold in that state comply with its regulations governing the housing of laying hens. On December 11, 2017, Alabama joined 12 other states in filing a similar [lawsuit](#) against the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for barring the sale of eggs, pork, and veal not housed according to its new regulations.

“By targeting regulations at farmers in other states, California and Massachusetts can effectively drive up agriculture costs across the country, adversely affecting both the farmer and the consumer,” Attorney General Marshall added. “It is important that these cases be resolved in the U.S. Supreme Court and states’ rights be upheld.”

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