

Statement of Support | 2018 NC Farm Act

We strongly support North Carolina's farmers, the right to farm, and the 2018 Farm Act.

The roots of agriculture are deeply woven across our state. North Carolina has more than 47,000 farms that cover over eight million acres from the mountains to the coast. Hard-working family farmers produce fruits and vegetables, raise livestock and seafood, and grow crops and grains that feed people in North Carolina, across the country and around the world.

Agriculture has always been an integral part of North Carolina's history – and it remains a cornerstone for our future. Today, agriculture is one of the most significant drivers of the North Carolina economy. It creates tens of billions in economic activity, employing 17 percent of the state's workers and accounting for nearly 20 percent of the state's economy.

It is important that we continue to protect our agriculture industry and the right to farm.

The NC General Assembly first adopted protections for farmers in 1979. Recognizing that nuisance lawsuits represented a serious threat to our farms, and our economy, the legislature clarified when a farm could be considered a nuisance. The legislature has further refined the law four times in an attempt to keep up with our changing, growing State.

As North Carolina continues to grow, such protections for farmers become even more important. People are increasingly moving into traditional farming communities with long-established operations.

With the increased potential for conflict in the agricultural communities, it is appropriate for the NC General Assembly to further define the law around what constitutes a nuisance.

The 2018 Farm Act offers important legal protections for responsible farmers.

We wholeheartedly endorse that concept and applaud the NC General Assembly for taking steps to ensure that a strong agricultural economy remains in North Carolina.



*“Agriculture is the most healthful, most useful, and most noble employment of man.”
- George Washington*