

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6883

To provide liability protection for meat processing facilities during the COVID–19 outbreak, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 15, 2020

Mrs. HARTZLER (for herself, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. HAGEDORN, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. YOHO, Mr. EMMER, and Mr. CONAWAY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To provide liability protection for meat processing facilities during the COVID–19 outbreak, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Protein
5 Production and Consumer Access Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROTECTION FROM LIABILITY FOR MEAT PROC-**
2 **ESSING FACILITIES IN CERTAIN CIVIL AC-**
3 **TIONS RELATING TO COVID-19.**

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subsection
5 (b), a meat processing facility shall not be liable under
6 Federal or State law for any act or omission of the facility
7 with respect to any harm arising from exposure to, or in-
8 fection by, the virus that causes COVID-19 during a pub-
9 lic health emergency with respect to COVID-19 declared
10 pursuant to section 319 of the Public Health Service Act
11 (42 U.S.C. 247d).

12 (b) **EXCEPTION.**—Subsection (a) does not apply if
13 the harm was caused by an act or omission constituting
14 willful or criminal misconduct, gross negligence, reckless
15 misconduct, or a conscious flagrant indifference to the
16 rights or safety of the individual harmed by the entity.

17 (c) **PREEMPTION.**—This section preempts the laws of
18 a State or any political subdivision of a State to the extent
19 that such laws are inconsistent with this section, unless
20 such laws provide greater protection from liability.

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