



www.nsba.org
Phone: 703.838.NSBA Fax: 703.683.7590
1680 Duke Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314 -3493

September 10, 2018

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Chairman
United States Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Ranking Member
United States Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Buy American Provision

Dear Chairman Roberts and Ranking Member Stabenow:

On behalf of our state associations and the 90,000 school board members who govern our country's 14,000 local school districts, I write to first thank you for your efforts in negotiating an updated farm bill. As you know, this important legislation has far reaching impacts across our country including, our nation's school districts.

Specifically, NSBA has strong concerns with the updated "Buy American" provision included in the Senate-passed bill. As written, school districts could be forced to apply for waivers when purchasing items on the "Buy American" provision's limited exception list. This will create an additional burdensome regulatory step with which many school districts cannot afford to comply.

To be clear, NSBA fully supports the current "Buy American" provision and encourages school districts to buy local and fresh when possible. However, overregulation from Washington, has already hampered local school districts ability to provide affordable school meals to our nation's students. An additional unfunded regulatory burden will only further compound this issue and many students will see increased meal prices as a direct result.

Ensuring that our nation's local districts have the flexibility needed to serve students nutritious, affordable meals is a top priority for us. NSBA respectfully requests that any effort to fully enforce the "Buy American" provision not place additional hardship on local districts. We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Gentzel
Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer