

Pennsylvania Family Farm Coalition
675 Mower Road, Suite #3
Chambersburg, PA 17201

June 3, 2005

Dear Pennsylvania Family Farm Coalition,

We the undersigned organizations would like take this opportunity to endorse and express our strong support for the work of the Pennsylvania Family Farm Coalition. Specifically, we are writing to express our support for efforts of the Pennsylvania Family Farm Coalition (PFFC) to strengthen and enhance an independent family farmer based system of agriculture in Pennsylvania and elsewhere. It has been and still is family farms that provide the best stability to our food system, the best potential for environmental stewardship and best source for community pride in its agricultural enterprises.

We strongly oppose efforts in Pennsylvania to eliminate local and municipal control over corporate farming operations. It is the local government that can best respond to the concern and best interest of it's citizens relating to environmental issues, property values, etc. A distant board lacks accountability to the people most affected. It is the people, not corporate interest who must decide these very important but basic issues.

We understand that the Pennsylvania Family Farm Coalition is spearheading efforts to defeat a legislative initiative known as "ACRE" (Agriculture, Communities, and Rural Environment), that would strip away local control over corporate farming operations via the creation of an Agricultural Review Board, which would place five political appointees in a position to overturn local ordinances adopted to protect family farms by regulating and controlling corporate and industrial farming operations.

We oppose the provisions of the ACRE initiative, along with other provisions that would preempt rural communities from regulating and controlling corporate farming operations. We urge Pennsylvania State Representatives and State Senators to oppose this legislation. We applaud the Pennsylvania Family Farm Coalition's efforts in opposition to that legislation.

Sincerely,

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