

Saturday, March 16, 2024



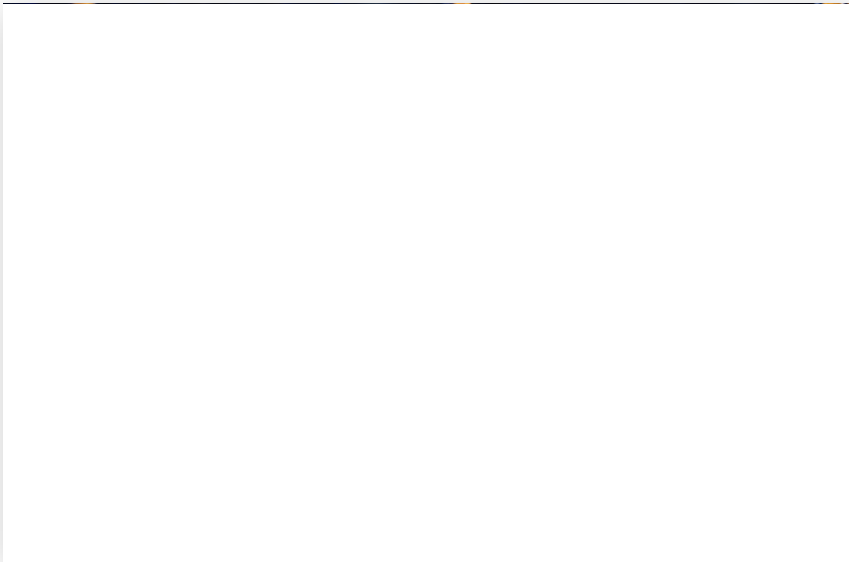
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# New Biden Rule Shuts Down Food Processing Plants Across Rural America



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By **Donny Ferguson** - March 11, 2024



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Commentary

In what some claim is a larger campaign to drive Americans out of rural areas and centralize access to food, the **Biden administration** is rolling out a draconian and needless new wastewater rule that could put small and mid-size food processing facilities out of **business**.

A large group of **United States** senators and representatives are demanding the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** withdraw a new meat and poultry wastewater proposal, which they claim “stands to hamper rural economies and drive small- and mid-sized processing facilities out of business.”

“Given the technical complexity and high costs of wastewater treatment alterations, coupled with the massive expansion of the number of regulated facilities, a 60-day comment period demonstrates EPA is not interested in seeking meaningful input from the regulated industry. As such, we urge EPA to withdraw the rule,” the lawmakers wrote in a letter to EPA officials.

“The proposed rule exposes hundreds of operators to a new regulatory regime with significant costs and a disregard of the ramifications on stakeholders ... We are concerned the number of potential closures is likely much higher than estimated, and we believe it is irresponsible for EPA to propose regulations that will arbitrarily close plants and eliminate jobs from the rural economy,” they write.

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“The EPA on January 24, 2024 published its proposed changes to the Effluent Limitations Guidelines (ELGs) for Meat and Poultry Products (MPPs). The guidelines apply to wastewater discharged by meat and poultry processors and renderers, as defined in a Clean Water Act program,” the senators reveal in a statement.

“The revisions EPA has put forward consist of three options, impacting between 844 and 1,618 facilities. Currently, MPP ELG guidelines affect just 180 facilities. Per EPA, this proposed regulation could close 16 MPP facilities under Option 1, 22 under Option 2 and 53 under Option 3. MPP processors support rural jobs and are key links in the national food supply chain.,” they add.

“The 60-day comment period on the rule closes March 25th. EPA has announced it does not plan to issue an extension. Such a tight window does not give stakeholders adequate time to submit meaningful feedback,” the senators note.

In addition to Senators Fischer and Ernst, the letter was signed by U.S. Senators **Pete Ricketts** (R-Neb.), Roger Marshall (R-Kan.), James Risch (R-Idaho), John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), **Mike Crapo** (R-Idaho), Mike Braun (R-Ind.), Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), James Lankford (R-Okla.), and Jerry Moran (R-Kan.).

In the House, the letter was led by U.S. Representative Tracey Mann (R-Kan.). In addition to Representative Mann, the letter was signed by U.S. Representatives Glenn “GT” Thompson (R- Pa.), Steve Womack (R-Ark.), Austin Scott (R-Ga.), Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.), Don Bacon (R-Neb.), Ron Estes (R-Kan.), James Baird (R-Ind.), Pete Stauber (R-Minn.), Dan Meuser (R-Pa.), Jake LaTurner (R-Kan.), **Randy Feenstra** (R-Iowa), **Ronny Jackson** (R-Texas), Mary Miller (R-Ill.), Brad Finstad (R-Minn.), Mike Flood (R-Neb.), and Mark Alford (R-Mo.).

The lawmakers are backed in their effort by the American Association of Meat Processors, the North American Renderers Association and the North American Meat Institute.

*The opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the positions of **American Liberty News**.*

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### Donny Ferguson

<https://donnyferguson.com/>

Donny Ferguson is a professional fundraiser and organizational manager. Born and raised in Texas, he has lived in Washington, D.C. for 16 years. Ferguson also served as Senior Communications and Policy Adviser in the United States House of Representatives, operating one of Capitol Hill's most effective media operations.

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