

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Louisiana Cattlemen's Association leading the charge to end House Bill 605

BATON ROUGE, La. (April 7, 2021) – “House Bill 605 is entirely detrimental to all agricultural industries in Louisiana,” said Dusty Pendergrass, Executive Vice President of the Louisiana Cattlemen’s Association. “We’re viewing this bill as an outright attack on our already struggling industry and it must be stopped.”

According to the HB605 Digest, published by the Louisiana State Legislature, the bill seeks to repeal sales tax exemptions for a long list of products necessary for livestock production. Additionally, the bill would impose a 2.97 percent tax rate on land rentals.

“While many of our cattle producers struggle to pay lease rates in competition with row crop commodities as it is, HB605 would then create an almost three percent tax on top of that,” Pendergrass said. “The repeal of sales tax exemptions on fuels, feeds, and other items crucial for livestock production will deliver yet another heavy blow to the already weakened agricultural industry in Louisiana.

“The agricultural community in Louisiana has been devastated by weather events, volatile markets and input costs never before seen by our industry. To propose a bill that would shackle our ability to conduct business and preserve American Agriculture is unheard of in the state of Louisiana. We hope our legislators will see this bill as a detriment to U.S. family farms and ranches.”

HB605 is a pending bill in the House Ways and Means Committee authored by Republican Representative Mark Wright.

“We’re encouraging our membership to contact their representatives to ensure this bill does not have the opportunity to pass,” Pendergrass said. “We are working tirelessly to combat HB605 and protect the interests of our producers. LCA exists to ensure Louisiana producers are represented in Baton Rouge and Washington D.C. We will always do everything in our power to protect the livelihoods of our Louisiana cattlemen and cattlemen. We greatly appreciate those who are standing with LCA to fight such a short-sighted bill and preserve family farms and ranches in our state. While many legislators in both the Senate and House are willing to stand with agriculture, we need our members to carry the torch by calling or writing to their legislators.”

HB605 is on the docket for this legislative session beginning April 12, 2021. To learn more about HB605 visit [HB605 \(la.gov\)](https://www.la.gov). Contact information for legislators is available at [Members By Parish \(louisiana.gov\)](https://www.louisiana.gov).

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Headquartered in Port Allen the Louisiana Cattlemen’s Association was founded in 1928 to create an organization capable of representing and lobbying for the interests of the Louisiana Cattlemen in Baton Rouge and Washington, D.C. LCA is an affiliate of the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association. To learn more about LCA or join today visit [Louisiana Cattlemen's Association \(labeef.org\)](https://www.labeef.org).

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