

PalmBeachPost

Letters: Greenhouse gas regulations too costly for farmers

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Florida's farmers and ranchers, like most Americans, have been struggling to make ends meet. How well they fare takes on added importance, since their fellow citizens can ill afford to add skyrocketing food costs to their list of challenges.

Because of this, the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed regulation of greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act could not have been more poorly timed. These regulations come with overwhelming economic costs, affecting not just the agriculture industry but small and large businesses throughout the state.

To comply with the EPA's new rules, businesses will have to make expensive renovations to existing structures or purchase new buildings and equipment. Additionally, these regulations will lead to lengthy, time-consuming permitting processes. And unless other nations agree to adhere to the same standards, American businesses will face a competitive disadvantage.

As Florida's largest agriculture organization, representing nearly 140,000 members, we are committed to fighting these harmful regulations. Recently, delegates from the American Farm Bureau Federation adopted a resolution urging Congress to pass legislation that would stop the EPA from setting regulations on greenhouse gases. Additionally, the Florida Farm Bureau supports congressional actions addressing this situation, including the bipartisan Resolutions of Disapproval by Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, and Rep. Ike Skelton, D-Mo.

Ultimately, the cost to cultivate, harvest and process crops affects every one of us when we check out at the grocery store. We encourage all Floridians to contact their senators and representatives in Washington about this important issue.

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Editor's note: John Hoblick is president of the Florida Farm Bureau Federation.