

Today is \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_. This is Ken Morgan's Northcoast Ag Report, our lead story is about \_\_\_\_\_ when we return

## **States Taking California Egg Law to Supreme Court**

### **Audio with Missouri Attorney General Josh Hawley (haw-lee)**

A dozen states are taking California to the U.S. Supreme Court. Missouri Attorney General Josh Hawley made the announcement Monday morning to attendees of the Missouri Farm Bureau's annual meeting, calling the state's poultry laws "anti-agriculture"...tape

Cut #1 :29 OC:... "this past year."

California's egg law took effect in 2015, requiring all eggs sold in the state to come from hens that are cage-free or kept in a large-enough pen. Hawley warned that laws like this are the new way that activists are trying to regulate farmers....tape

Cut #2 :24 OC:... "of Missouri."

Speaking with reporters after his speech, Hawley echoed his approach to the lawsuit, noting that with almost one-third of Missouri's eggs sold in the Golden State, Missouri farmers must either comply with a law they had no say in enacting or lose access to their consumers...tape

Cut #3 :24 OC:... "consumers and farmers."

From a legal standpoint, Hawley said that the egg law violates the Constitution's Commerce Clause...tape

Cut #4 :10 OC:... "the first place."

He added that California's law also runs afoul of federal law...tape

Cut #5 :29 OC:...“benefit California.”

Hawley’s predecessor, Chris Koster, sued California last year in federal district court to overturn it. However, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled last year that Missouri and five other states had no standing to challenge the law. Missouri is joined in this case by Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Utah, and Wisconsin.

### **TAX CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

House and Senate leaders have appointed negotiators to work out differences between the two bodies’ tax bills. Key farm state lawmakers will be part of the effort.

Among farm-state lawmakers who will help work out House and Senate tax bill differences includes southern Illinois’ U.S. Representative John Shimkus...tape

Cut #1 :29 OC:...“taxable event.”

Both bills double the estate tax exemption, while the House version ends the tax by 2024.

Both bills also create new, but different, tax breaks for small businesses that file as individuals, including 94-percent of farms...tape

Cut #2 :16 OC:...“and services.”

Other provisions popular with producers—cash accounting, and faster expensing of land, equipment and facilities.

But South Dakota U.S. Senator John Thune says farm families will benefit from the broader tax relief, as well...tape

Cut #4 :30 OC:...“current tax law.”

House and Senate Republicans are pushing to complete negotiations and pass a tax bill to send to the president by the end of the year. Illinois' Shimkus predicts it could be done by Christmas.