



**OKLAHOMA**  
**RISING**

## What Oklahomans are saying about State Question 777

*“... The irony of this (SQ 777) is the notion of farming free of government regulation or interference, well, we've got this thing called the Soil Bank, the Agricultural Adjustment Act, all this legislation that subsidizes American farming in order to keep the food supply safe and affordable. The reason it's safe and affordable is because government regulators are involved. Because when you have unregulated farming, you get the Dust Bowl.”*

OU Professor Keith Gaddie,  
Interview with KGOU Radio, Nov 20, 2015

## What is State Question 777?

This proposed state constitutional amendment would prohibit the [Oklahoma Legislature](#) or state regulatory agencies from passing laws or adopting rules and regulations that negatively impact the rights of farmers and ranchers "to employ agricultural technology and livestock production and ranching practices."

## Is SQ 777 really “Right to Farm”?

Proponents of this measure have named it “Right to Farm.” Interestingly, however, all 50 states in the U.S. already have “Right to Farm” statutes.

## The Language of SQ 777

The following text would be added to the Oklahoma Constitution:

“To protect agriculture as a vital sector of Oklahoma’s economy, which provides food, energy, health benefits, and security and is the foundation and stabilizing force of Oklahoma’s economy, the rights of farmers and ranchers to engage in farming and ranching practices shall be forever guaranteed in this state. **The Legislature shall pass no law which abridges the right of farmers and ranchers to employ agricultural technology and livestock production and ranching practices without a compelling state interest.**”

## The Language of SQ 777

The following text would be added to the Oklahoma Constitution:

*“To protect agriculture as a vital sector of Oklahoma’s economy, which provides food, energy, health benefits, and security and is the foundation and stabilizing force of Oklahoma’s economy, the rights of farmers and ranchers to engage in farming and ranching practices shall be forever guaranteed in this state. **The Legislature shall pass no law which abridges the right of farmers and ranchers to employ agricultural technology and livestock production and ranching practices without a compelling state interest.**”*

## State Question 777 Educational Efforts

A new non-profit organization, Oklahoma Rising, Inc., has been formed to promote and protect a variety of social welfare issues (public health, education, environment/water issues) that improve quality of life in Oklahoma. Oklahoma Rising has created OK Food, Farm & Family, Inc., as an educational non-profit focused specifically on SQ 777.

## State Question 777 Takes Away Our Rights

A new non-profit organization, Oklahoma Rising, Inc., has been formed to promote and protect a variety of social welfare issues (public health, education, environment/water issues) that improve quality of life in Oklahoma. If SQ 777 passes, Oklahomans will give up our rights to demand action and accountability from our elected state officials and state regulatory agencies as relates to future agriculture-related activities. We believe it is imperative the Legislature continues to consider and enact laws and regulations on agriculture practices that impact public health, water and air quality, soil conservation, property rights and other critical issues.

Oklahoma Rising has created OK Food, Farm & Family, Inc., as an educational non-profit focused specifically on SQ 777.

## Farmers and Ranchers Don't Need to be a Special, Protected Class

While farming and ranching are vital to our state's economy, how does this proposed constitutional change square with the fundamental idea of equal rights for all citizens? Why do we suddenly need to create a "special legal class" only for agriculture, a status enjoyed by no other industries in Oklahoma? And what precedent would passage set for other industries to request similar status?

## State Question 777 is Ultimately About Control of Water Rights, Water Quality and Water Transfer

The vague language in this ballot question could trigger a series of dramatic negative consequences, threatening private property rights and municipal zoning authority, and throwing the state's water laws into chaos.

- Who will adjudicate Oklahoma's complex water rights/ownership laws if the state government can no longer act?
- What agency of government will monitor water quality, air quality, soil conservation, etc., if the Oklahoma DEQ and Water Resources Board are barred – by the State Constitution – from regulating?

## Oklahoma Rising Partners & Members

The Oklahoma Rising coalition already includes thousands of individuals, companies and organizations that represent a broad cross-section of Oklahoma:

- Traditional, independent farmers/ranchers
- Oklahoma Food, Farm & Family Coalition
- The Oklahoma Municipal League
- The Conservation Coalition of Oklahoma
- Other Oklahoma-based conservation and wildlife organizations
- Farm-to-table markets and restaurant owners
- Oklahoma-based environmental organizations
- Local animal welfare advocates
- Local doctors, public health and nutrition professionals
- Local realtors and developers, and many others.



**OKLAHOMANS**  
**FOR**  
**FOOD, FARM**  
**& FAMILY**

Mickey Thompson, Executive Director  
Oklahoma Rising, Inc., and OK Food, Farm & Family, Inc.  
13919-B North May Ave, #202  
OKC, OK 73134  
(405) 640-2555  
[mthompson@brainstormok.com](mailto:mthompson@brainstormok.com)