

Charlie McConalogue
Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Via e-mail: charlie.mcconalogue@oireachtas.ie

November 4, 2021

Dear Minister:

I had the great privilege and pleasure of learning about pigs when I starred in the movie *Babe*. They're fascinating animals who possess a remarkable capacity for love and joy—as well as sorrow. I was therefore shocked to hear about your plans to export these wonderful animals from Ireland to China, where they'll be used as breeding machines. And I urge you, on behalf of kind people everywhere, to reconsider.

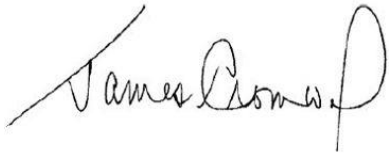
Treating pigs as cargo—and forcing them to endure a long journey in cramped cages while exposing them to excessive noise and changes in air pressure—is both unnecessary and cruel, and it would cause immense stress to these sensitive animals. Worse still, whatever protections they might have in Ireland fly completely out the window when they arrive in China, where there are no laws to protect animals on farms.

Pigs deserve better than this. These animals, like so many others, already suffer tremendously for humans' absurd addiction to their flesh—the absolute least we can do is spare them the unnecessary trauma of an arduous journey overseas.

I hope you'll see that shipping pigs abroad does not align with the friendly spirit Ireland is known for. Please do the right thing and reverse this decision. Better still, ban the live-export trade—a stain on humanity—entirely.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Cromwell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent initial 'J'.

James Cromwell