

COMMERCE CLAUSE

ARTICLE 1, SECTION 8, CLAUSES 3 AND 18, AND AMENDMENT X

- **Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3**
The Congress shall have the power ...
...to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes...
- **Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18**
...to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.
- **Amendment X**
The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

CAN CONGRESS MAKE THIS LAW?

Review each proposed law to determine whether Congress has the power to make that law under the Commerce Clause.

1. Recently, a freight train crashed when it entered Kansasippi, because the train operator didn't recognize Kansasippi's unique warning signal. Congress wants to pass a law that requires all states to use uniform warning signs and signals for trains. **Does Congress have the power to make this law?**
 - Uniform warning signs and signals for trains: Yes...trains travel on railways from state to state.
2. Congress wants to pass a law that bans factories which make products that are sold in other states from employing children under the age of 18. **Does Congress have the power to make this law?**
 - A law that bans factories which make products by juveniles: No...can ban products not factories, but can fine the factory for violating child labor laws.
3. Tomato prices have been plummeting and tomato farmers aren't making enough money to keep planting their crops. In order to limit the overall tomato crop, thereby raising tomato prices, Congress wants to pass a law that prohibits all U.S. farmers that sell vegetables from growing more than 500 pounds of tomatoes each – even for their own consumption. **Does Congress have the power to make this law?**
 - A law that prohibits farmers from growing more than 500 pounds of tomatoes: No...cannot ban production of legal products. Can give subsidies to entice farmers NOT to grow products, though.
4. Lawmakers are dismayed by the number of shootings that take place in schools. Congress wants to pass a law that makes it a federal crime to possess a gun on the property of a public school. **Does Congress have the power to make this law?**
 - A federal crime to possess a gun on the property of a public school: No...schools are run by states and are not interstate commerce.
5. Congress wants to pass a law setting a national speed limit at 55 mph. **Does Congress have the power to make this law?**
 - A law setting a national speed limit at 55 mph: No...but can tie federal highway funds to force states into adopting this mandate.
6. Congress is concerned about drug use, so it wants to pass a law making it a crime to manufacture, distribute, or possess certain drugs and narcotics, including marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamines. **Does Congress have the power to make this law?**
 - A law making it a crime to manufacture, distribute certain drugs: Yes...because they are trafficked from foreign countries and from state to state, congress can intervene.