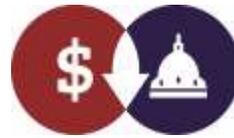




AMERICANS
for TAX REFORM



COST OF
GOVERNMENT
CENTER

Dear Representative,

We write in strong opposition of the Federal Agricultural Reform and Risk Management Act. Known as the "Farm bill," H.R. 1947 does nothing to reform the country's agricultural programs that distort market forces and cost taxpayers billions. We urge you to oppose this bill.

The legislation includes many policies that drive up prices for consumers while providing lucrative handouts to the agriculture industry. Our outdated programs provide generous subsidies to farmers; policies that are relics of an era when farming was a risky and undesirable enterprise. Today, thanks largely to the unwitting munificence of the American taxpayer, farming is a profitable business. However, the bill does nothing to change the government's practice of insuring farmers against any risk. At the same time, it all but guarantees extraordinary profits for farmers through its unrealistic shallow loss program.

The bill does attempt to get away from income guarantees when it comes to dairy producers, but replaces the current system with a proposal that is much worse. The legislation would create the Dairy Market Stabilization Program, which both protects the industry from revenue losses while keeping prices for dairy products artificially high. This new dairy program would hit taxpayers twice: first by requiring them to foot the bill for lucrative new profit guarantees for dairy producers and then again by driving dairy prices sky-high. The bill attempts to use the same tactics with the sugar and peanut industries and as a result Americans pay more for these products.

The bill also adopts the status quo by bundling agricultural policy with Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), the costs of which have double over the past five years. At minimum these issues should be dealt with separately. This bill spends too much and does nothing to reform our broken agriculture policies – taxpayers deserve better. We encourage you to vote against H.R. 1947.

Sincerely,

Grover Norquist
President
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