



News Release

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**Senate Ag Committee chairman says to Farm Bureau state presidents:
“Support the FairTax!”
Many respond:
“We do”**

For immediate release

Houston – On July 12, U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss (GA), chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, addressed the American Farm Bureau Federation’s Council of Presidents meeting in Washington, D.C. In his remarks, he urged overt Farm Bureau support for the FairTax legislation (HR 25/S 25) from this powerful grassroots organization. With many state farm bureaus, county organizations, and farmers and ranchers nationwide seconding Chairman Chambliss’ remarks, three state presidents stepped forward to be quoted as members of the FairTax team.

Chairman Chambliss concluded his Farm Bureau call to action (see below) with the following words, “The only way we’re going to change the [tax] system is to have organizations like the Farm Bureau be out front, be bold and be willing to take a positive step to reform issues like taxes and to make sure we do the right thing.”

South Dakota Farm Bureau President Scott VanderWal commented, “Not only does the FairTax help every American farmer by reducing the cost of farm equipment but it opens up foreign markets like never before by eliminating today’s tax disadvantages built into the price of our commodities. It also eliminates the tax on passing our farms to the next generation. I like the FairTax. It’s good for the American farmer, good for our economy and gets rid of serious tax disadvantages that are making it hard to compete with foreign growers.”

Texas Farm Bureau President Kenneth Dierschke followed up with, “Farm Bureau members in Texas support the FairTax. I was pleased to hear Senator Saxby Chambliss’ strong commitment to the FairTax and his encouragement for the key role Farm Bureau could play in its passage. Our [Texas] policy supports the FairTax and the activism of Farm Bureau members could be critical during the debate. I will be encouraging Texas Farm Bureau members to talk with their members of Congress. We need to tell them that the fairness and simplicity of the FairTax is good for Texas and the nation.”

Indiana Farm Bureau President Don Villwock added, “I was extremely impressed with Sen. Chambliss and especially his remarks about the FairTax. He brings tremendous credibility to the tax reform debate. He outlined some facts and positives about the FairTax of which I was not aware. The time is right for reform and we must let all our legislators know how important it is for the future of American agriculture.”

Chambliss to state Farm Bureau presidents: “Support the FairTax!”

Sen. Chambliss stated, “I know the Farm Bureau has had under consideration whether or not to endorse the FairTax. I happen to be a big supporter of the FairTax. I am the sponsor of the FairTax in the Senate, and what I’ve said all along is that the system we have doesn’t work. It’s cumbersome, it’s not fair, and it’s not equitable, and we need to change the current system. I think the best deal that’s out there is the FairTax.

“It removes the determination of who pays the tax from the federal government to the individual. You decide how much you want to pay in taxes by how much money you spend, and if there is a better way to change the system, then I am open to listen to it. But I think from a standpoint of where we are today that we need to take the current system, pull it up by the roots, throw it away, and start over again with a system that is fair, is equitable, and that will work, and I think the FairTax is the best option that’s out there today.

“Whether or not we get this out this year, next year, or five years from now, we’ve got to keep working at it until we do come up with a new system that is much fairer and much more equitable, that will not only impact our Social Security system, we won’t have to worry about it going bankrupt, we’ll cover it with the FairTax. We won’t have to worry much about the value-added tax in Europe versus what we do in our country, relative to our trade policy. The FairTax will have a huge impact on our ability to be more competitive in the international market.

“The only way we’re going to change the system is to have organizations like the Farm Bureau be out front, be bold and be willing to take a positive step to reform issues like taxes and to make sure we do the right thing.”

Where does the FairTax (HR 25/S 25) stand with farmers and ranchers nationwide?

Right now, county farm bureaus nationwide are discussing and passing resolutions on policy. Where does your county organization stand on the FairTax? For more information, a Farm Bureau-produced video is available or contact FairTax.org.

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What is the FairTaxsm plan?

The FairTax plan is a comprehensive proposal that replaces all federal income and payroll taxes with an integrated approach including a progressive national retail sales tax, a rebate to ensure no American pays federal taxes up to the poverty level, dollar-for-dollar revenue neutrality, and the repeal of the 16th Amendment. This nonpartisan legislation (HR 25/S 25) abolishes all federal personal, gift, estate, capital gains, alternative minimum, Social Security, Medicare, self-employment, and corporate taxes with one simple, visible, federal retail sales tax – collected by existing state sales tax authorities, levied only on new goods and services delivered at retail to final end users. The FairTax taxes us only on what we choose to spend, not on what we earn. It does not raise any more or less revenue; it is designed to be revenue neutral. So it is also cost neutral – the final (tax included) cost for goods and services changes little under the FairTax. The FairTax is a fair, efficient, transparent, and intelligent solution to the frustration and inequity of our current tax system.

What is Americans For Fair Taxation (FairTax.org)?

FairTax.org is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to replacing the current tax system. The organization has hundreds of thousands of members and volunteers nationwide. Its plan supports sound economic research, education of citizens and community leaders, and grassroots mobilization efforts. For more information visit the web page: www.fairtax.org or 1-800-FAIRTAX.