



AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

LEGISLATIVE ALERT

1920 L STREET, N.W. - SUITE 200 - WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 - 202-785-0266 - [HTTP://WWW.ATR.ORG](http://www.ATR.org)

Vote AYE on the Grassley Subsidy Cap Amendment to the Farm Bill!

Senator Charles Grassley is coming to the rescue of America's taxpayers, who have been forced to line the pockets of some rather wealthy farmers (and in many instances, people who aren't even remotely close to being the actual, everyday farmers US farm policy is intended to protect) for far too long.

It's unfortunately axiomatic in farm policy that the less one needs financial assistance from the government, the more they'll get, since the amount of the hand-outs are determined by acreage and not demonstrable need. For example, nearly two-thirds of the \$27 billion in federal farm subsidies distributed in 2000 went to the top 10 percent of farm owners, including such not-exactly-destitute folks (and not-likely-to-be-seen-on-a-tractor types) like Ted Turner.

That must stop, and the Grassley amendment will make a real difference in putting things right. If passed, the Grassley amendment would limit annual farm program payments to individuals to no more than \$225,000 or \$275,000 if a spouse also receives payments. (It's worth noting that the average yearly take for farmers is around \$16,000, so only the least-needy "farmers" would be "affected" by the Grassley amendment.)

It could certainly be argued that if anything, the proposed caps are too generous. But the journey towards real, sensible, and effective reform always starts with a single step, and this step is a very good one, indeed. This vote should be 100 to zero in favor. It's one of the sanest farm policy proposals ATR has seen in years. And accordingly, ATR will take this vote under consideration when we calculate our annual congressional ratings for 2002.