



**NORTH CAROLINA
FARM BUREAU FEDERATION, INC.**

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May 22, 2013

Senator Kay Hagan
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hagan:

North Carolina tobacco farmers are very concerned over the latest attack on North Carolina's tobacco farming families.

We realize that you are aware of the amendment that was introduced in an effort to remove premium subsidies from Federal Crop Insurance for tobacco and thank you for your efforts to defeat this amendment. This amendment singles out one commodity, treating it differently from all other commodities covered by the Federal Crop Insurance Program.

Unlike farmers of other commodities, tobacco farmers have only one mechanism to manage the many risks they face in producing a legal commodity. Lending institutions have indicated that without Federal Crop Insurance coverage, most farmers would not meet the requirements necessary to secure operational loans. Removing this risk management tool will certainly result in the loss of farms, jobs, economic opportunity and well-being in rural North Carolina.

Cost savings to the Federal Crop Insurance Program have already been enacted and absorbed by tobacco and all other commodities. It is critical that a viable crop insurance program be maintained to secure a healthy agriculture economy.

It is clear that eliminating crop insurance premium subsidies for tobacco would be extremely damaging to tobacco farming families in our state and would further dampen North Carolina's efforts to improve our overall economy.

As you continue to work on this important issue, please contact us if you need additional information or see opportunities for us to assist. We ask that you share our concerns with your colleagues.

As always, thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Larry B. Wooten
President
North Carolina Farm Bureau

Sincerely,

Brent Leggett
President
Tobacco Growers Association of NC

*Farm Bureau and Agriculture...
We keep North Carolina growing!*