

Estate Tax Legislation

Introduced in Senate by Sen. John Thune (R-SD) as S. 617

Introduced in House by Reps. Jason Smith (R-MO) and Sanford Bishop (D-GA) as H.R. 1712

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Talking Points

- Ask your representative or senator to cosponsor H.R. 1712 or S. 617.
- The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) temporarily doubles the estate tax exemption to \$11 million per person through 2025.
 - Without congressional action, the estate tax exemption will revert to \$5.8 million per person in 2026.
- If the estate tax is not eliminated, instead of spending money to improve their operations, farmers, along with all small businesses, will be forced to continue to divert resources to pay for estate planning to account for a shifting and unpredictable tax code.
- If congress doesn't act and the estate tax exemption is allowed to go from \$11.58 million to \$5.8 million, **32% of all Wisconsin agricultural land** would be subject to estate taxes when the property is transferred following a death.
- If S. 671 or HR 1712 is not passed and the exemption level falls to \$5.8 million, **2,340 farms in Wisconsin will be affected**. That's 2,340 Wisconsin family farms that may choose to abandon farming in the future.
- Under the current exemption of \$11.58 million, only 721 farms are affected. Without passage of S.617 or HR 1712, three times as many farms would end up paying the estate tax.
- The death of loved one should not force families to give up the farm, but that is the real-world impact of estate tax liabilities.
- If not a full repeal of the estate tax, Congress should make permanent the higher exemption put in place by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act to enable long-term planning.

Ask your Representative to cosponsor H.R. 1712.

Ask your Senator to cosponsor S. 617.