



**AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION®**

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VIA FACSIMILE

«Fax»

May 31, 2005

The Honorable «First» «Last»  
U.S. Senate  
«CapStreet2»  
Washington, DC 20510

**(TO FULL SENATE)**

Dear Senator «Last»:

Farm Bureau supports S. 663, introduced by Sens. Bingaman (D-N.M.) and Thomas (R-Wyo.), to allow the self-employed to take a tax deduction for health insurance premiums against the 15.3 percent self-employment tax.

Self-employed individuals, which includes most farmers and ranchers, are finding it more and more difficult to obtain health insurance coverage with premiums on the rise and benefits on the decline. Congress recognized this problem and passed legislation to grant self-employed individuals an income tax deduction for the cost of their health insurance premiums. This legislation will help make health insurance more affordable by expanding the deduction to include a deduction against the 15.3 self-employment tax.

We ask you to cosponsor S. 663, the Equity for Our Nation's Self-Employed Act of 2005, to grant the self-employed a complete deduction for the cost of their health insurance premiums. This legislation will help make health insurance more affordable for farmers and ranchers who already have it and it will help those without insurance to afford coverage.

Sincerely,

Bob Stallman  
President