

Email content:

Dear Rep/Senator,

As a resident of your district and a member of the Ohio Farm Bureau, I am asking that you please support HB 3 to eliminate the Ohio Estate Tax. This is an issue that is very important to Ohio's farmers, families, and small businesses and has been a long-term policy priority for members of the Farm Bureau.

Individuals, partnerships, and family corporations own 98 percent of Ohio's farms. On average, about 84% of a farmer's assets are held in land, machinery, or buildings, so paying the estate tax can force a farmer to sell off land or machines or take out a loan. When estate taxes cost more money than a farm family has, surviving family partners can be forced to sell land, buildings or equipment to keep their operation going. In less drastic situations, the estate tax can force a farmer to shift investments away from the farm in order to pay the estate tax.

<If desired, can tell their story>

Only 17 states have an estate tax, and of them, at only \$338,333 Ohio has the lowest exemption of them all. By comparison, the average exemption in the 16 other states with an estate tax is \$2,058,333. Please help us to lift this burden from Ohio's family farmers, small businesses, and families.

House Bill 3 has been named a Key Vote by the Ohio Farm Bureau and will be used to determine to determine who is named as a *Friend of Agriculture*. Please vote yes on HB 3.

Sincerely,

Phone points:

Hi, my name is (XYZ) and I am a member of the Farm Bureau. I am calling to ask the Representative/Senator to please vote yes on HB 3 to eliminate Ohio's estate tax.

- Individuals, partnerships, and family corporations own 98 percent of Ohio's farms.
- On average, about 84% of a farmer's assets are held in land, machinery, or buildings, so paying the estate tax can force a farmer to sell off land or machines or take out a loan.
- When estate taxes cost more money than a farm family has, surviving family partners can be forced to sell land, buildings or equipment to keep their operation going.
- In less drastic situations, the estate tax can force a farmer to shift investments away from the farm or local community in order to pay the estate tax.
- HB 3 will be a Key Vote for the Farm Bureau and will be used in identifying Friends of Agriculture.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Name