



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE**

CINDY HYDE-SMITH  
COMMISSIONER

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Commissioner Hyde-Smith Applauds Efforts towards Needed Tax Reform**

**JACKSON, Miss.** — Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Cindy Hyde-Smith applauds efforts by President Trump and congressional leaders on proposals to overhaul the current tax structure. Reform proposals to simplify the tax code, particularly the repeal of federal estate taxes, are paramount changes that afford agribusinesses and family farms the opportunities to prosper.

“Agriculture is a \$7.6 billion industry in Mississippi. There are over 36,700 farms in Mississippi, and 96 percent of those are family-owned. Estate taxes can significantly affect the continuance of the farming operation. Often times, families must sell a portion of the land to pay estate taxes. Converting farmland to other uses is not necessarily in our best interest. The world population is projected to be over nine billion people in 2050. In order to feed and clothe an expanding world population, we need to keep our farmland in the hands of those farmers who produce our food and fiber, and these proposals are a step in that direction,” said Hyde-Smith.

“Mississippi farmers and ranchers need a tax system that accounts for the unique challenges that they face while also simplifying the tax code and reducing their overall tax burden,” added Hyde-Smith.

Commissioner Hyde-Smith ranks meaningful tax reform as a top priority for the current administration. Upon invitation from the White House, Hyde-Smith will travel to Washington D.C. this week for a meeting to discuss tax reform policy. “As your Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce, I want to make sure that Mississippi has a seat at the table and our voice is heard as tax policy is being developed,” said Hyde-Smith.

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