

UNITED STATES SENATOR • IOWA  
**CHUCK GRASSLEY**  
RANKING MEMBER • SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Reporters and Editors  
RE: Permanent repeal of the death tax  
DA: June 12, 2002

Sen. Chuck Grassley, ranking member of the Committee on Finance, issued the following comment on permanent repeal of the estate tax.

“Permanent repeal of the death tax is a moral issue. It’s wrong for our government to tax income more than once, but that’s exactly what happens with this tax.

“The question is, do senators want to strengthen small businesses and farm operations, or do they want to confiscate family businesses built by people who lived modestly and put what they made back into the business over a lifetime?”

“Most small businesses and family farms can’t survive after they’re split up just to pay the estate tax. And long before the tax is due, farmers and small business owners are forced to spend a whole lot of time and money planning for the death tax. This is wasted energy that would be better spent increasing productivity and growing our economy.

“It’s time to sound the death knell on the death tax with permanent repeal.”