CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE  

JUNE 9, 2000

DEAR AMI MEMBER: I am writing today to express how disappointed I am with your Washington lobbyists and their efforts to misrepresent and thus undermine my attempts to help American farmers.

You may have read a recent “Inside AMI” story claiming that, “Senator Grassley pushed conferences to provide for a $35 million Agriculture Marketing Equity Capital Fund. The proposal was yet another attempt to fund a National Pork Producers Council proposal that seeks to secure government funding to establish a national pork cooperative and use government funds to buy, build or purchase equity in a pork slaughter and processing facility.”

This claim is a blatant misrepresentation of the facts. The truth is that the provision your lobbyists were attacking had nothing to do with publicly financing the construction of a pork plant. These funds are intended to be used by independent grain and livestock producers to develop business plans, feasibility studies, and business ventures with packers and processors. While some may believe the truth is no longer relevant in Washington, D.C., that attitude will be given no quarter in dealings with me.

My staff reached out to you’s to make certain they understood the error in their representations of my proposal, as well as to request alternative suggestions. No response ever came. Unfortunately, many of my colleagues were misled by your staff, and my proposal was gutted.

I wanted you to hear directly from me because I have had a long and positive working relationship with many AMI members over the years and I hope that this can be the case in the future. I believe that it would be appropriate to investigate for yourself the concerns I have raised about your Washington representatives.

Sincerely,

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,
U.S. Senator.