

May 9, 2016

Unbelievable ! Only words to describe the governors' comment on a "bailout" for agriculture. She says that agriculture should not be treated different from any other business. Well, agriculture is different !

What other business takes net profits from 5 or 6 years and plants it in the ground come spring, then bets on the weather and the markets. What other businesses have no control over the prices of the products that they produce and sell. What other businesses are both producers and consumers.

Agriculture is the largest business in this state with an economic impact of over \$ 40 billion dollars. Agriculture supports over 200,000 jobs. The prices farmers receive for their commodities have not risen at a steady level for years. I doubt that Boeing, Volvo or BMW are selling their products for the same amount as in past years.

Speaking of them, most of their products are sold out of state. Very little economic impact here. A majority of the agricultural products produced in this state, stay in this state. Major economic impact. I believe all these companies received major amounts of money from the state in the forms of tax breaks, incentives, large infrastructure work and other perks. Their economic impact on this state is peanuts compared to agriculture.

The governor's veto promise is not a surprise. She had an opportunity to request federal aid at the end of the year, but did not. That \$ 300 million dollars or part of it went to Texas where their state leaders understand agriculture.

Governor Haley's national political aspirations are not helping us on the local level. She should have taken a few ag econ courses while working on that accounting degree. Couldn't have hurt !

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