

**Subject:** Farmers Hit Capitol Hill

**Story Summary:** As the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress debates policies that will impact the nation, thousands of farmers are traveling to Washington, D.C. to visit their representatives. They want the lawmakers to know how the agricultural community feels about issues like farm policy, trade policy, taxes and regulatory reform.

**TRT:** 1:57

**Suggested Lead:** We've all heard the saying, "If you don't like something, then change it." That is exactly why farmers from across the country are visiting the nation's capital. Johnna Miller explains.

**Suggested Supers:** Washington, DC  
@ :04

Aaron Lee  
Indiana farmer  
@ :20

Rep. Baron Hill  
D - Indiana  
@ 1:21

Johnna Miller  
Reporting  
@ 1:50

**Farmers Hit Capitol Hill**  
**Johnna Miller Reporting**  
**March 22, 2001**

<p>Shot of Aaron Lee</p> <p>Aaron Lee &amp; group.  <b>Washington, DC</b>  group walking in House bldg</p> <p>sideshot of group walking in House building then turn to behind group</p>	<p>A suit isn't standard attire for Aaron Lee. Like most of this group of Indiana farmers, he's more comfortable in a pair of jeans. But this group is ready for serious business in the nation's capital – visiting their congressional representatives. Their goal is to make sure the lawmakers on the Hill understand the concerns of the agricultural community.</p>
<p><b>Aaron Lee</b>  <b>Indiana farmer</b></p>	<p>Aaron Lee: The main thing on my mind is farm policy. We have so many questions and unanswered questions that are going on right now and going on in the minds of all my friends and family at home who are involved in agriculture.</p>
<p>Farmer filling planting bins</p> <p>Wide shot of tractor planting</p>	<p>They're not the only ones concerned. Farm policy is an important issue for farmers nationwide, along with trade policy, taxes and regulatory reform. All are affecting the bottom line for producers who are struggling in the sagging farm economy.</p>
<p>Lee talking to other farmer in hallway</p>	<p>NAT: What do you think is the key to focus on? Probably taxes and trade reform.</p>
<p>Group walking thru Rep's doorway</p>	<p>While most Americans would never dream of walking into their congressman's office, Lee says it's a vital effort for the shrinking farm population.</p>

Lee on camera	Lee: We have the personal stories. We live it and when we can come here personally then we can tell them exactly what we want to tell them and we can express personal things we're going through on our individual operations.
Rep. Hill walking into office	Lawmakers like Representative Baron Hill say those personal stories make a difference...
Hill talking to group in office	NAT: What issues are important to you here today? Got anything you want to speak about? Estate taxes.
group from behind Hill	...and they value the face to face meetings with constituents.
<b>Rep. Baron Hill (D) – Indiana</b>  On camera	Hill: They bring a real world perspective to my job. Here in Washington so much you hear a lot of things. Some things you don't know what to believe, but when you've got people from your district from back home, from Indiana, who are plowing the fields and raising hogs and cows and doing the real work in a real life fashion, to bring them here gives me a realistic perspective on issues that face Congress.
Farmers listening <b>Johnna Miller Reporting</b> Hill shaking hands with all	Thousands of farmers will make similar trips to Washington with their state Farm Bureaus. As they plow this political field they hope these visits will yield policies that will help agriculture's future. In Washington, I'm Johnna Miller.