

Family Business Estate Tax Coalition

March 31, 2009

Senator Blanche Lincoln
355 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Jon Kyl
730 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Lincoln and Kyl:

On behalf of the Family Business Estate Tax Coalition (FBETC), we are writing in support of your efforts to provide additional permanent relief from the estate tax in the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Resolution.

The goal of the FBETC has always been full repeal of the estate tax. While we are operating in an environment of budget concerns, we understand that full repeal may not be immediately possible. We also have concerns that freezing the 2009 estate tax levels will not provide adequate relief. It is essential that permanent estate tax legislation shield as many family businesses as possible from the estate tax and the burden of estate tax planning through a high exemption level and that the impact on larger family businesses be minimized by providing the lowest possible rate. It is also important to ensure that any relief related to the exemption is tied to inflation, contains a spousal transfer and that the stepped-up basis is included.

To provide the best possible relief to our members in the current environment and to provide momentum for permanent estate tax legislation this year, we support your amendment to the Budget Resolution adding a deficit neutral fund dedicated to further estate tax relief.

We thank you for your continued efforts to support America's family businesses and family farms, and look forward to working with you as this important issue moves forward.

Sincerely,

The Family Business Estate Tax Coalition

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Air Conditioning Contractors of America
American Council for Capital Formation
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Hotel and Lodging Association
American International Automobile Dealers Association
AMT – the Association for Manufacturing Technology
Associated Builders & Contractors
Associated General Contractors of America
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Bowling Proprietors Association of America
Communicating for America
Comporium Group
Financial Executives International’s Committee on Private Companies
Food Marketing Institute
Heating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Distributors International
Independent Community Bankers of America
International Foodservice Distributors Association
International Franchise Association
Marine Retailers Association of America
National Association of Convenience Stores (NACS)
National Association of Manufacturers
National Association of Realtors
National Association of Wholesalers-Distributors
National Automobile Dealers Association
National Beer Wholesalers Association
National Cattlemen’s Beef Association
National Electrical Contractors Association
National Federation of Independent Business
National Funeral Directors Association
National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association
National Newspaper Association
National Restaurant Association
National Small Business Association
National Telecommunication’s Cooperative Association
National Utility Contractors Association
Newspaper Association of America
Policy and Taxation Group
Printing Industries of America
Petroleum Marketers Association of America
S Corporation Association
Society of American Florists
Tire Industry Association
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of America
Wine Institute
WineAmerica