



1201 New York Avenue, NW • #600 • Washington, DC 20005  
Tel. 202-289-3120 • Fax 202-289-3185 • www.ahla.com

**Governmental Affairs Department**

**John P. Connors**  
Executive Vice President for Public Policy

June 9, 2004

The Honorable William Thomas  
Committee On Ways and Means  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thomas:

On behalf of the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA) and its 12,000 members, I wish to express our support of **H.R. 4520** which includes an extension of the Work Opportunity and Welfare-to-Work Tax Credits.

Work Opportunity and Welfare-to-Work tax credits allow employers to hire disabled and disadvantaged workers, youth, veterans on food stamps and certain at-risk individuals. Because of these credits, more than 2.7 million individuals who were previously dependent on welfare programs have found work. According to the president's budget for fiscal year 2005, these tax credits cost of approximately \$750 million over 10 years. At \$937 per job, the jobs tax credits represent an extremely cost-effective federal jobs program.

These important programs expired in December 2003. The delay in their extension is a matter of serious concern to the hotel and lodging industry. Currently, employers must now bear significant costs to try to reach those attempting to make the transition from welfare to work with no assurance of tax credits to offset these considerable costs.

On behalf of AHLA, I commend your leadership and urge your colleagues to support **H.R. 4520** and the jobs tax credits.

Sincerely,

John P. Connors