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**GEORGIA
AGRIBUSINESS
COUNCIL**

COUNCIL MISSION: "TO ADVANCE THE BUSINESS OF AGRICULTURE AND PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL GEORGIANS."

June 9, 2004

The Honorable William Thomas
Chairman
House Ways and Means Committee
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of our diverse membership throughout the tobacco producing counties of Georgia, I thank you for your consideration of tobacco farmers through H.R. 4520, *the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004*. The product of months and even years of discussions, this package offers the best opportunity to transition the tobacco industry at all levels into a new operational environment.

No doubt, this legislation will provide resources to shift producers from the current program strategy to a more market oriented business structure. However, I am sure that you are aware that the package will in dramatic fashion impact entire rural communities in a very positive way.

Tobacco producers feel the grip of government's invisible hand tightening. We believe the package slated for mark up in your committee is appropriate and deserves favorable consideration. Thank you for your leadership on this crucial issue.

Sincerely,

Gary W. Black
President

