



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHAIN RESTAURANTS
of the > National Retail Federation

4 June 2004

The Honorable Bill Thomas
Chairman, Committee on Ways & Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thomas:

On behalf of the National Council of Chain Restaurants (NCCR), I write to express our firm support for the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004, H.R. 4520. We are especially supportive of the provisions in your bill relating to the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC), the Welfare-to-Work Tax Credit (WWTC), and a reduction in the permissible depreciation period for certain restaurant buildings. These provisions are a top priority for NCCR, and we appreciate their inclusion in this important legislation.

The National Council of Chain Restaurants, a division of the National Retail Federation (NRF), is a national trade association representing forty of the nation's largest multi-unit, multi-state chain restaurant companies. These forty companies own and operate more than 50,000 restaurant facilities. Additionally, through franchise and licensing agreements, another 70,000 facilities are operated under their trademarks. In the aggregate, NCCR's member companies and their franchisees employ more than 2.8 million Americans.

As you know, WOTC and WWTC expired at the end of 2003. The six-month hiatus in the programs has created confusion among employers and state certification authorities. Repeated and continued lapses in these highly successful welfare to work programs make it extremely difficult for employers to plan for future participation. It is my hope that H.R. 4520 can quickly pass the House, that an agreement can be reached with the Senate version of the bill, and that it can soon be sent to the President for his signature.

I thank you for your tireless efforts over many months to craft legislation that can pass the House of Representatives with bipartisan support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terrie M. Dort".

Terrie M. Dort
President