

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
Government Affairs

1615 H STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20062-2000  
202/463-5310

June 8, 2004

Honorable Bill Thomas  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways and Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Thomas:

On behalf of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing more than three million businesses of every size, sector and region, I write to express our support for H.R. 4520, *the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004*.

We commend your leadership in crafting a bill that not only addresses the FSC/ETI issue, but does so in a way that balances the many and sometimes competing interests of the business community. H.R. 4520 will provide a corporate rate cut for manufacturers, the primary beneficiary of FSC/ETI. The bill also includes a number of important international tax simplification provisions that will help to make U.S.-based companies more competitive in the global marketplace. We also support the AMT relief provisions and earnings repatriation provision. In addition, we are pleased that your bill includes the ethanol tax credit, which will make whole the Highway Trust fund.

Your bill also includes a number of important provisions for our small business members, such as an extension of section 179 expensing and numerous simplifications of the Subchapter S rules. The bill also provides a rate cut for small and medium-sized corporations. We are also grateful for the inclusion of extensions of expiring tax provisions, such as the R&E credit, which are important to the business community.

We are also pleased that H.R. 4520 does not include a provision from H.R. 2896, the so-called earnings stripping language. While we still have some concerns about other revenue raising provisions in the bill, you have gone a long way to address the concerns of the business community in this bill.

With the European Union retaliatory tariff now at eight percent, we urge the Committee on Ways and Means to quickly pass H.R. 4520 and get the bill to the House floor. We thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten

