



Grover G. Norquist

President

June 21, 2004

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

Dear Congressman Thomas:

Last week, you and the House of Representatives achieved an historic victory in passing HR 4520, "The American Jobs Creation Act." Nearly as important as the victory on FSC-ETI is what was not in the bill—language restricting the Department of Labor's regulations on overtime. This backward-looking mandate does remain in the Senate version of the bill. Repealing the common-sense overtime regulation update that the Labor Department has developed would encourage frivolous lawsuits by opportunistic trial lawyers seeking to defeat our common agenda.

On behalf of Americans for Tax Reform, I would urge you to do everything in your power to strip out the Harkin amendment language on overtime when HR 4520 is reconciled with its Senate counterpart in conference.

Aggressive trial lawyer tactics on overtime are a jobs killer. Independent analysts estimate that over \$1 billion is used by business to defend themselves against predatory overtime lawsuits. This is money that should be used to create jobs and raise the standard of living for employees of small businesses.

Sincerely,

Grover Norquist