



NATIONAL CATTLEMEN'S BEEF ASSOCIATION

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September 27, 2007

The Honorable Ron Kind
United States House of Representatives
1406 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Wally Herger
United States House of Representatives
2268 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kind and Congressman Herger:

On behalf of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, and the farmers, ranchers and small businesses it represents, I would like to thank you for your leadership in introducing H.R. 3660, the Equity for Our Nation's Self-Employed Act of 2007. By introducing this legislation, you have taken a vital step toward addressing a significant tax inequity facing millions of self-employed taxpayers.

In 2003, Congress took action to alleviate the disparity faced by the self-employed with regards to health insurance by passing legislation that permits sole proprietors to deduct health insurance premiums from their income taxes. Nevertheless, self-employed taxpayers still find themselves at a disadvantage. Because they are not allowed to deduct health insurance premiums from their self-employment tax liability, sole proprietors filing a Schedule C are required to pay a 15.3 percent tax on their health insurance costs above and beyond that which is paid by other taxpayers. This uneven playing field creates an additional burden for small businesses already struggling to maintain adequate health coverage.

NCBA appreciates your efforts to establish parity for the deductibility of health insurance premiums, and I look forward to working with you in the 110th Congress as you seek to enact this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay H. Truitt".

Jay H. Truitt
Vice President, Government Affairs