

March 9, 2004

OPEN LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Supporting FY05 Budget Reconciliation Instructions that would Accelerate Repeal Of the Estate Tax from 2010 to 2009

NPES The Association for Suppliers of Printing, Publishing and Converting Technologies, on behalf of its over 400 member companies nationwide, commends the inclusion of reconciliation instructions in the FY 05 Budget resolution that would accelerate from 2010 to 2009 the effective date of repeal of the estate tax. We strongly support this action and believe it is imperative to achieving the ultimate goal of permanent repeal of this destructive tax.

Federal estate taxes have long been of concern to family-owned business, such as many NPES member companies, because of the potential for the tax due on the death of an owner to force liquidation and hamper or prevent the intergenerational transfer of family-owned businesses.

The temporary provisions of the estate tax repeal complicate an already overly complex and burdensome tax. The uncertainty surrounding repeal requires business owners to continue with estate-planning strategies that are costly, cumbersome and time consuming. Each year that estate taxes are repealed reduces this burden.

Therefore, NPES strongly supports retaining FY 05 Budget reconciliation instructions that would accelerate from 2010 to 2009 the effective date of repeal of the estate tax. We urge the Senate to **ACT NOW** to take this important step toward **PERMANENTLY REPEALING** this onerous tax.

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