

January 29, 2008

Dear Senator:

I am writing on behalf of the International Franchise Association to urge your strong support for the **bipartisan economic stimulus package**. **It is essential that the Senate act decisively to address concerns in the economy, and that is why we will consider votes on the package among our Key Votes for the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress.**

Franchising works by building local businesses in communities across the country. Franchising is not an industry. It is a very dynamic business strategy, and it has become an important method of business organization and job growth. Some one hundred different industries have turned to franchising as a means of efficiently producing and distributing products and services of a uniform quality. Hundreds of thousands of people in the United States have opened their own businesses by buying a franchise.

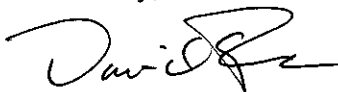
The mission of the International Franchise Association is to safeguard the business environment for franchising in the United States and around the world. The organization represents over 1,200 of America's best known brand names, along with almost ten thousand franchisees and 400 supplier members nationwide. America's more than 909,000 franchised businesses generate jobs for more than 21 million workers (more than 15 percent of the nation's private-sector employment) and account for \$2.3 trillion in annual economic activity.

Our members support the key elements of the bipartisan stimulus plan. By quickly returning money to the economy through consumers, the plan will help support demand for the goods and services provided by franchise establishments in neighborhoods nationwide. We also strongly endorse the package of small business tax incentives that the President and congressional leaders crafted, because these carefully targeted provisions will help to foster business investment and job growth among franchised small businesses. Finally, we believe it is essential that Congress act without including any offsetting tax increases. Such increases in taxes will only negate the positive benefits of the stimulus package and delay the enactment of these provisions.

Again, the International Franchise Association strongly supports the bipartisan stimulus package, and we urge prompt action by the Senate. We will consider including votes on this legislation as part of our annual Key Vote report to our members.

Thank you, and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,



David G. French  
Vice President, Government Relations