

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****CONTACT: Melissa Sharp**  
(202) 314-2068**Small Business Calls on Congress to Address Nation's Financial Security Challenges***NFIB endorses bi-partisan legislation encouraging Congress to address fiscal problems now, not later*

**Washington, D.C., December 6, 2007** — The National Federation of Independent Business, the nation's leading small-business advocacy group, today sent a letter to Capitol Hill endorsing the Securing America's Future Economy Commission Act, H.R. 3654. This bipartisan legislation requires Congress to take an important first step in addressing the country's long-term financial condition by creating a bipartisan task force that will draft recommendations for how Congress should immediately act to improve our nation's bleak fiscal outlook.

Current fiscal policy and the growth of entitlement programs such as Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security are unsustainable for future generations. If changes are not made, NFIB members are concerned that higher taxes will be imposed on them to pay for these programs.

"Small-business owners are very concerned about the consequences of leaving the nation's fiscal outlook unchecked," said Dan Danner, executive vice president of NFIB. "Like many Americans, small-business owners do not want to pay for the government's irresponsible fiscal choices through significantly higher tax rates, which will discourage business investment and obstruct small-business growth."

NFIB applauds Rep. Jim Cooper (D-Tenn.) and Rep. Frank Wolf (R-Va.) for sponsoring H.R. 3654. These lawmakers understand how important it is for Congress to tackle the financial challenges created by current policies. Their leadership on this important issue is truly appreciated by the small business community.

"Every day we fail to act, our nation's long-term fiscal outlook worsens," said Rep. Cooper, a senior member of the House Budget Committee. "The national debt grows \$1 million a minute. Experts of all political persuasions have agreed that we're long past the point of hoping to grow our way out of this problem. If we don't make some tough tax and spending choices soon, we will both bankrupt our social safety net and kill American businesses' ability to compete. The SAFE Commission—a bipartisan commission with teeth—puts all options on the table in order to preserve our country for future generations."

Congressman Wolf echoed the need for immediate action.

"Congress cannot continue to avoid responsibility to future generations of Americans by passing on a broken system in the form of unfunded Social Security and Medicare obligations," said Rep. Wolf, a senior member of the Appropriations Committee. "We owe it to our children and grandchildren to address unsustainable spending in a bipartisan manner. The Cooper-Wolf SAFE Commission Act is a step forward and will ensure that Congress addresses this issue with all forms of spending – entitlement and tax policy – on the table. The longer we turn a blind eye toward our spending woes, the harder and more abrupt the necessary adjustments will be for the American people to reach sound financial footing."

"NFIB looks forward to working with members of Congress to pass legislation so that our nation's job creators and future generations of small-business owners will not be burdened by a financially unstable federal government," said Danner.

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*NFIB is the nation's leading small-business advocacy association, with offices in Washington, D.C. and all 50 state capitals. Founded in 1943 as a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, NFIB gives small- and independent-business owners a voice in shaping the public policy issues that affect their business. NFIB's powerful network of grassroots activists send their views directly to state and federal lawmakers through our unique member-only ballot, thus playing a critical role in supporting America's free enterprise system.*

*NFIB's mission is to promote and protect the right of our members to own, operate and grow their businesses. More information about NFIB is available online at [www.NFIB.com/newsroom](http://www.NFIB.com/newsroom).*