

**Wally  
Herger**  
Congressman

**2nd District - California**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JUNE 22, 2006

**NEWS**

CONTACT: DARIN THACKER  
(202) 225-3076

## **Herger Lauds House Passage of 'Death Tax' Relief**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - Congressman Wally Herger (CA-02) today voted in favor of H.R. 5638, the Permanent Estate Tax Relief Act of 2006, which the House passed by a vote of 269 to 156. This measure, which Herger cosponsored, would provide permanent "death tax" and gift tax relief for millions of Americans. Herger had the following reaction regarding House passage of it:

"It is completely unfair for Americans to face heavy taxes on inherited assets after the loss of a loved one, which in the past often forced people to sell a family farm or small business just to pay the taxes," Herger stated.

"If Congress doesn't act, the death tax will return full force in 2011. While I strongly support full repeal, the Permanent Estate Tax Relief Act would permanently eliminate it for 99.7 percent of all Americans. It would also bring certainty and predictability to family farmers and small business owners planning for the future. I hope the Senate promptly passes this common sense legislation and sends it to the President's desk for signature."

The Senate is expected to consider a similar measure next week.

Below is the text of Congressman Herger's speech in support of the Permanent Estate Tax Relief Act of 2006. Video and audio can be accessed at:

<http://www.house.gov/herger/images/CWHDeathTax-6-22-6.rm>

(more)

---

For more information, log on to <http://www.house.gov/herger> on the Internet!

*"Mr. Speaker, All across America, following the death of a loved one people of modest means are too often faced with the grim prospect of selling a family farm or small business just to pay the taxes that come due. Such was the case in my own family, when my cousins had to sell the farm that had been in our family since the early 1900s just to pay the taxes. This is simply wrong.*

*"I rise in strong support of the Permanent Estate Tax Relief Act. Like many others in the House, I continue to strongly support permanent repeal of the death tax. Americans should not have to pay this onerous double tax on savings and capital.*

*"Currently, we're scheduled to have a one-year full repeal of the death tax in 2010. But if Congress fails to act, the death tax will return full force in 2011, reducing exemption levels and restoring maximum tax rates of nearly 60 percent.*

*"Mr. Speaker, this bill before us institutes permanent relief for those subject to the death tax, and restores predictability and certainty to small business owners and family farmers planning for the future. It boosts exemption levels and adjusts them for inflation. And with maximum rates tied to capital gains rates, those still subject to the tax will see their burden significantly reduced.*

*"Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this legislation."*