



**Professional Photographers
of America**

March 20, 2009

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

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

Dear Representative Kind and Representative Herger,

We are writing today to support of The Equity for Our Nation's Self-Employed Act (H.R. 1470) on behalf of Professional Photographers of America, Society of Sport & Event Photographers, Commercial Photographers International, Evidence Photographers International Council, and the Student Photographic Society. Together with our affiliated organizations, we represent some 44,000 professional photographers.

Professional photographers are the smallest of small business owners. Most are one, two, or possibly three-person businesses earning an average of \$35,000 per year. With the average cost of health insurance approaching \$12,000 for family coverage, it is easy to see why health insurance premiums can be prohibitive for photographers.

H.R. 1470, The Equity for Our Nation's Self-Employed Act, will lessen the burden carried by only the self-employed, as it allows health insurance premiums to be paid with pre-payroll tax funds like all other types of employers.

The self-employed and small businesses are where the most innovation takes place and where the majority of new jobs are created. Amid these tough economic times, this important legislation will free up sorely needed funds to help self-employed individuals pay for their family's health insurance and expand their businesses. As such, we offer our continuing support to your efforts.

Sincerely,

David P. Trust
Chief Executive Officer