

**N.G.A. STRONGLY SUPPORTS PRESIDENT BUSH'S
TAX RELIEF EFFORTS**

Repeal of "Death Tax" called critical to family-owned businesses

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 7, 2001) — The National Grocers Association, the voice of the independent segment of the retail and wholesale food industry, today announced its full support of President George W. Bush's agenda to simplify the federal tax code. The announcement followed a February 6, 2001 meeting with President Bush at the Old Executive Office Building that was attended by Tom Wenning, Senior Vice President and General Counsel of N.G.A.

Among the elements of the President's tax relief plan are a tax cut for every family that pays income taxes; replacement of the current five-rate tax structure with four lower brackets – 10, 15, 25 and 33 percent; doubling the child tax credit to \$1,000, reduction of the marriage penalty and elimination of the death tax. This final element is particularly important to N.G.A. members, some of who have suffered to the point of nearly losing their business as a result of estate taxes.

"Elimination of the estate tax has been N.G.A.'s number one legislative priority for almost a decade. Our members are especially supportive of elimination of the estate tax because these businesses need capital to build their organizations and stay competitive with companies that have better access to capital markets," explained Wenning.

Wenning added that President Bush told the group, which included several trade association executives and small business owners, that tax relief is his highest priority for his first year in office. As a businessman himself, the President said he knows small businesses are the source of most new jobs in the country, and the recent downturn in the economy can be reversed by putting money back into the hands of consumers.

"It is clear to our members that the President's plan is critical to addressing many of their short- and long-term challenges, including capital for investment in existing and new stores, retaining good employees and family succession planning," said Thomas K. Zaucha, President & CEO of N.G.A.

For additional information on President Bush's tax relief plan, please contact the N.G.A.'s Public Affairs department at (703) 437-5300.