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Herger**
Congressman

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Herger Says Tax Freedom Day Demonstrates Heavy Tax Burden on Americans

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) Congressman Herger today commented on the Tax Foundation's report indicating that April 26, 2006, is "Tax Freedom Day." This date represents the point in the year in which Americans, on average, finish working to pay taxes to the government and start working for themselves. It demonstrates that roughly one-third of the income of Americans is spent on taxes. Herger had the following reaction to the report:

"Tax Freedom Day reminds us of the incredible tax burden placed on the shoulder of Americans," Herger stated. "At the federal, state, and local levels, Americans hand over an unacceptably large portion of their hard-earned income to Uncle Sam. In fact, according to the Tax Foundation's report, Americans spend more on taxes each year than they do on food, transportation, and medical care combined.

"Although I wish Tax Freedom Day was much earlier, the good news is that substantial tax relief in 2001 and 2003 has lowered the tax burden on millions of Americans and spurred strong economic activity," continued Herger. "As a result, Tax Freedom Day this year is about one week earlier than it was in 2000. The tax relief on American families has also allowed eleven million lower income taxpayers to leave the federal tax role altogether. And tax relief for businesses and investment has helped spur economic growth and create millions of good jobs, which has led to a national unemployment rate that's lower than the average of the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s, increased tax revenue, and a lower-than-expected federal deficit.

"Our economy is on very firm footing, and maintaining a lower tax burden is crucial to our nation maintaining its strong economic performance. To ensure that the tax burden on Americans doesn't increase, I am working to make the recent tax relief permanent. Now is not the time to raise taxes on American families and businesses, which is exactly what would occur if tax rates return to their previous higher level," Herger concluded.

To read the complete study on Tax Freedom Day, including specific information on California, courtesy of the Tax Foundation (a leading and authoritative source on taxation since 1936), visit <http://www.taxfoundation.org/taxfreedomday/>.

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