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## AICPA Congratulates House Leaders On Passing Legislation to Prohibit Patents on Tax Planning Methods

Washington, DC (September 7, 2007) – The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) congratulates leaders in the U. S. House of Representatives on passing legislation that would prohibit patents on tax planning methods.

“The accounting profession appreciates the House’s swift action to protect taxpayers and tax practitioners from the growing problems presented by the granting of tax strategy patents,” said Barry C. Melancon, AICPA President and CEO.

Melancon noted that 60 tax strategy patents have already been granted and that 99 more are pending. “The patents are not limited to esoteric sections of the tax code,” he said. “They cover a broad array of areas, including estate and gift taxes and pension plans that affect millions of taxpayers.”

“Our underlying concern with tax strategy patents,” he said, “is that they violate the core principle of equity that is the foundation of our voluntary tax system.”

The tax strategy patent prohibition language was included in H.R. 1908, the Patent Reform Act of 2007, which was passed by the House today by a vote of 220 to 175. This section of H.R. 1908 was an outgrowth of the hard work on this issue by Reps. Rick Boucher (D-VA), Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) and Steve Chabot (R-OH), who introduced legislation earlier this year to curb the growing problems of tax strategy patents.

The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants ([www.aicpa.org](http://www.aicpa.org)) is the national, professional association of CPAs, with approximately 330,000 members, including CPAs in business and industry, public practice, government, and education. It sets ethical standards for the profession and U.S. auditing standards for audits of private companies; federal, state and local governments; and non-profit organizations. It also develops and grades the Uniform CPA Examination.

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