

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**NORTON AND TOURISM WORKER TO URGE TAX BREAKS AT NEWS
CONFERENCE ON EVE OF ANNUAL NORTON TAX FAIR**

Washington, DC-Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) will be joined by John Boardman, Executive Secretary/Treasurer of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees, Local 25, and tourism workers in their work clothes at a news conference at 9:15 AM, Friday, February 20, 2004 in Room 203-A of the new Washington Convention Center to discuss the benefits of the under used Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for low and moderate income workers. Norton also will preview her Tax Preparation and Information Fair on Saturday, February 21, from 10 AM to 1 PM at the Convention Center. The Congresswoman invited Boardman, and D.C. tourism workers, who are typical of residents eligible for the EITC. An IRS expert also will be on hand to answer questions at the news conference.

“Our hotel, restaurant, and other hospitality workers are among those hit hardest by the jobless recovery and are still rebounding from the impact of September 11. This year we are making a special effort to alert them and many other low and moderate workers, such as hospital employees, that they may qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit, even if they are not now working,” Norton said. The Congresswoman will have tax experts on hand to prepare the income tax forms not only of these workers on Saturday, but for any D.C. residents who file the typical 1040 forms.

Norton is particularly using the Tax Fair to reach out to D.C. residents whose EITC is going unclaimed. A tourism worker will discuss what she gets from the government through the EITC program at the news conference. The EITC is a refundable credit that supplements the income of low-income wage earners and provides an additional incentive for people with low wages to work. The District of Columbia also offers an additional EITC to eligible residents.

D.C. residents can learn more about qualifying for the local and federal EITC, the \$5,000 Federal Homebuyer Credit and many other tax credits and benefits at Norton’s Tax Preparation and Information Fair on Saturday. In addition, more than 30 IRS and D.C. Tax and Revenue professionals will prepare tax forms and provide tax advice free of charge.

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