

## **NFIB Members Warming To Fair Tax – MIRS 5-22-08**

More than half of businesses responding to a National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) survey said they would support a 9.75 percent sales tax in exchange for the repeal of the state's income or business taxes, according to information presented at a House committee today.

NFIB Director Charlie OWENS told the House Tax Policy Committee today that when he surveyed members on the "Fair Tax" proposal in 2007, only 32 percent said they'd support the concept. Another 57 percent opposed it with the remainder undecided.

In February, Owens asked his members again about the Fair Tax in reaction to Rep. Fulton SHEEN's (R-Plainwell) effort to put proposal in front of voters in November through a Constitutional amendment. This time, 52 percent of his members supported the idea while 32 percent said "no." The rest, 15.4 percent were undecided.

"As taxpayers become familiar with the new Michigan Business Tax (MBT) and the winners and losers under this new tax being to shake out, there may be renewed interest in an altogether different tax concept and members may be more likely to support the Fair Tax concept," Owens said.

The NFIB remains neutral on the proposal. Owens said NFIB doesn't take an official position on an issue until at least 60 percent of its members support it.

"We will continue to watch the situation and make a judgment on whether a resurvey is warranted," Owens said.