



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Whitney Wyatt-Kovar, (800) 583-8003 ext. 5894

Mr. Rooter® Franchise Owners and Executives Hit Capitol Hill

Waco, Texas (Sept. 27, 2007) – *Mr. Rooter* franchise owners and corporate executives lobbied on Capitol Hill for small business owners during the International Franchise Association's 8th Annual Franchise Appreciation Day on Sept. 11.

"Franchise Appreciation Day was an excellent way to bring small business concerns straight to our lawmakers," said Mike McLaughlin, owner of the *Mr. Rooter* franchise in Salem, Mass. "It really puts a face on the issues that concern small business."

Along with 575 other business owners and franchising executives, McLaughlin; Paul and Saunda Kitchen, *Mr. Rooter* franchisees in Santa Rosa, Calif.; Mary Kennedy Thompson, president of the Mr. Rooter Corporation; and Jeff Moody, vice president of operations for the Mr. Rooter Corporation; met with the staff of the congressmen and senators from their respective states, discussing issues that impact small businesses such as affordable small business healthcare plans.

According to the IFA, more than 45 million Americans are uninsured, with nearly 60 percent of those employed by small businesses.

"It's difficult for our franchise owners to provide insurance for their team members because it is so expensive," Thompson said. "Providing health insurance is the right thing to do, and that's why we're championing for the creation of Small Business Health Plans, which would allow employers to offer health insurance to their employees through the employer's membership in an association or association-like group, such as a franchise system."

In addition to lobbying, Saunda Kitchen attended meetings for the Franchisee Forum, which is a group of franchisees that provides guidance and advice to the IFA's board of directors on policy issues affecting the franchising community. Saunda Kitchen, who was elected to the Franchisee Forum in the spring, and other Forum members represent more than 30,000 franchises operating in more than 70 different industries.

"I am proud to help advocate the needs of small business owners as well as the employees that franchising represents," she said. "We're excited to offer ideas and feedback to the IFA to help promote a healthy relationship between franchisees and franchisors."

As part of Franchise Appreciation Day, *Mr. Rooter* representatives also listened to guest speakers Al Hubbard, director of the National Economic Council and assistant to the president for Economic Policy; Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ); Sen. Michael B. Enzi (R-WY); and George Will, columnist for The Washington Post and a regular guest on ABC's This Week.

About Mr. Rooter®:

Established in 1970, *Mr. Rooter* is the largest all-franchised, full-service plumbing and drain cleaning company in the world with approximately 300 franchises worldwide. Recognized by Entrepreneur magazine among its "Franchise 500" and Franchise Times Top 200, *Mr. Rooter* franchisees provide services to both residential and commercial customers. *Mr. Rooter* began franchising in 1974 and is a subsidiary of The Dwyer Group, Inc. For more information or to find the location nearest you, please visit our Web site at www.mrrooter.com.

###