

BACKGROUND ON **BUSINESS**

Can A Vacation Be Good For Business?

(NAPSA)—If you're a small business owner, taking a vacation can be a stressful experience. Many entrepreneurs fear their companies will suffer while they are away.

"The irony is that vacations can be a long-term investment in the success of the business by helping owners re-charge and return to work invigorated," says Alice Bredin, small business advisor for OPEN: The Small Business Network from American Express.



Bredin offers the following tips for business owners hoping to get away:

- **Make a commitment.** Once you decide to travel, make a financial commitment by putting down a deposit or starting a vacation fund.

- **Plan ahead.** Schedule your time away around long weekends and other holidays. If your business is seasonal, take an off-season vacation.

- **Mix business and pleasure.** Tack a vacation to the end of a business trip. This strategy can also save you money on airfare.

- **Prepare your re-entry.** Make sure that while you are gone, someone is in place to scan your mail, faxes and e-mail and organize them for your return.

To learn more about vacation planning for small business, visit www.open.americanexpress.com.