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Review of Activity on FDA Proposal

December 1995

91715248

REVIEW OF ACTIVITY ON FDA PROPOSAL

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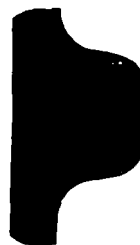
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COMMENTS TO THE DOCKET AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

AGRICULTURE

Completed Comments

- Tobacco industry representatives and others addressed members at the annual conventions of the Farm Bureau Federation in all six major tobacco-growing states. A message of opposition to FDA's proposed regulations was delivered to more than 5,000 farmers in:

- Georgia
- Kentucky
- North Carolina
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Virginia

- Attendees were encouraged to submit comments to the docket and their Members of Congress. Informational materials, pre-printed postcards and paraphernalia, such as hats and bumper stickers, were distributed to thousands.

- At the North Carolina Farm Bureau meeting, Senators Bob Dole and Jesse Helms, as well as Governor Jim Hunt, addressed the issue of FDA regulation.

- Tobacco industry representatives also attended many other agriculture meetings, shows and conventions this summer and fall. Booths, under the banner of the National Tobacco Council, distributed thousands of pieces of informational material, pre-printed postcards, and paraphernalia to attendees at the following events:

- The Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition (Moultrie GA) 250,000 people were estimated to have attended this event.
- The Mid-Atlantic Farm Show (Wilson, NC) about 100,000 people were in attendance.

• Tobacco industry representatives briefed tobacco groups and distributed letter-writing packets at several annual meetings:

- Burley & Dark Leaf Tobacco Association (300 people attended)
- Tobacco Exporters of the U.S. (250 people attended)

• Tobacco Institute representatives briefed 30 agribusiness leaders from Florida on the proposed FDA regulations.

• Tobacco groups have held letter-writing dinners where attendees were briefed on the FDA issue and wrote letters to the docket with copies to Members of Congress. Industry representatives were on hand at the following dinners in Kentucky:

- Eastern Dark Fired Tobacco (450 attendees)
- Western Dark Fired Tobacco (700 attendees)

• The Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corporation encouraged FDA submissions from individuals via two mailings of nearly 45,000 (each) to farmers and others interested in the agricultural aspects of tobacco. The issue also has been addressed in the group's last two newsletters to those same 45,000.

• The National Tobacco Council mailed a call to action to 400 top agricultural leaders from the presidents of the Flue-Cured Tobacco Stabilization Corp., the Burley Tobacco Growers Co-op, and Burley Stabilization.

• Letter-writing stations have been set up at the more than 200 burley warehouses. Bumper stickers, hats, and other paraphernalia have been distributed to thousands of farmers at these warehouses.

• The Lancaster Leaf Processing group in Pennsylvania has sent mailings to 2,000 tobacco growers asking them to submit comments to the docket.

• Tobacco-oriented agriculture organizations submitted comments to the docket with copies sent to appropriate Members of Congress:

- Burley & Dark Leaf Tobacco Association
- Burley Auction Warehouse Association
- Burley Stabilization Corporation
- Council for Burley Tobacco
- Stemming District Tobacco Association
- North Carolina State Grange

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- The American Farm Bureau Federation filed comments as did Virginia's bureau.
- Several major liberal, non-tobacco, agriculture groups submitted comments to the FDA docket, with copies to respective Members of Congress:

- American Corn Growers Association
- National Farmers Union
- National Association of Farmer Elected Officials
- American Agriculture Movement of Arkansas
- Kentucky Minority Farmers Association

- In addition, several members of the following agriculture groups filed comments with the FDA:

- Western Kentucky African American Farmers Association
- National Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE)

Ongoing

- Letters to the FDA docket are expected from several agriculture groups:
 - National Tobacco Council
 - Burley Tobacco Growers Coop Association
 - Eastern Dark Fired Tobacco Growers Association
 - Western Dark Fired Tobacco Association
 - Tobacco Growers Association of North Carolina
 - Leaf Tobacco Exporters Association
 - Farm Bureaus in key tobacco states
 - Federation of Southern Cooperatives and its local affiliates in Georgia and South Carolina
 - National Association of Farmer Elected Committeemen
 - National Farmers Association
 - American Agricultural Movement affiliates in Illinois and Virginia
- The President of North Carolina State Grange is soliciting comments for the docket from the Tennessee and South Carolina State Granges.
- The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture is expected to submit comments.
- Friends of Tobacco membership and supporters are being encouraging to file.

- The Smokeless Tobacco Council is soliciting comments from 5 tobacco grower pools in Wisconsin.

91715256

AMERICAN TOBACCO

GROWER

Fourth Quarter, 1995

REGULATING THE FDA'S AUTHORITY

There is little doubt the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) could play a very important role in our nation. In fact, the role is so important that the FDA's efforts must be tightly focused upon what it was set up to do: ensure a safe food supply and test and approve new drugs and treatments through the regulation of the nation's food and drug industries. Clearly, tobacco does not fit into the FDA's Congressionally mandated mission.

FDA Commissioner Dr. David Kessler's attempts to gain power over cigarettes shows that he is more interested in a political and personal agenda than in what Congress has defined as the purpose of the FDA. In fact, while Kessler pursues regulation of tobacco products, more than eleven hundred unapproved medical devices are now awaiting approval by the FDA. Kessler is on a personal quest for power and commitment to the expansion of the FDA's authority while perpetuating the "big government" notion that Americans don't have enough sense to make choices for themselves. This became frightfully clear when Dr. Kessler said, "If members of our society were empowered to make their own decisions, then the whole rationale for the FDA would cease to exist."

It is time to stop zealots like David Kessler and further government intervention into American life. Using the information in this newsletter, take a moment today to voice your opinion by writing to the FDA on the topics listed to the right, then send a copy of your letter to your Congressman and Senators. Take action now!

REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMENTING ON PROPOSED FDA REGULATIONS

Submit comments on the proposals below to
95N-0253

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration, Room 1-23
12320 Parklawn Drive
Rockville, MD 29867

- Vending machine ban.
- Free sampling, mail-order sales or self-service display bans.
- Tombstone advertising.
- Ban on outdoor advertising within 1,000 feet of a school or playground.
- Ban on the sale or distributions of non-tobacco items
- Restriction on sponsorship of events to corporate name only.
- \$150 million anti-tobacco education campaign required of the tobacco industry.
- Any other restrictions on sales, marketing or distribution.

Submit comments on the proposals below to
95N-0253J

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration, Room 1-23
12320 Parklawn Drive
Rockville, MD 29867

- Whether nicotine in cigarettes or smokeless tobacco is a drug.
- Whether these products are drug delivery device within the meaning of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act.

The FDA notes that "persons submitting comments critical of a proposed regulation are encouraged to include their preferred alternative wording. The quality and persuasiveness of the comments will be the basis for the Commissioner's decisions. The number and length of comments will not ordinarily be a significant factor in the decision unless the number of comments is material where the degree of public interest is a legitimate factor for consideration."

TOBACCOMMENTS

FACTS TO PASS

Probably the most striking thing about our cover story is the following quote by Food and Drug Commissioner David A. Kessler. "If members of our society were empowered to make their own decisions, then the whole rationale for the FDA would cease to exist."

It is a sad day in a democratic nation when the head of a powerful government agency has to justify his job by making public comments which belittle the judgment and intelligence of the entire society he serves.

It is inappropriate and unnecessary for the FDA to regulate cigarettes. Regulation of cigarettes is the domain of Congress, not FDA, which appears to be embarking on a mission to outlaw cigarettes as we know them today. Youth smoking, the issue upon which Kessler bases his reasoning for FDA regulation, is already illegal in all 50 states. Cigarettes are already highly regulated, from the seedbed to the sales counter with at least nine branches of government already involved in regulating and monitoring

tobacco including the US Department of Agriculture, the Federal Trade Commission, the Internal Revenue Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and many more.

While pursuing control over tobacco, the FDA is ignoring important, live-saving matters: more than eleven hundred

unapproved medical devices are awaiting FDA approval. The FDA would best serve the public by dealing with the live-saving medical devices awaiting their approval. If he is really worried about his job security, Commissioner Kessler could learn a valuable lesson from Benjamin Franklin's Poor Richard's Almanac: "Keep thy shop and thy shop will keep thee."

The FDA's efforts to gain regulatory control over cigarettes will be based upon the unfounded claim that cigarettes are "highly addictive" and should therefore be subject to FDA regulation as a drug.

Claims that smoking is addictive defy common sense. Smoking is a matter of personal choice that can be stopped if and when a person decides to do so. In fact:

- According to the 1988 report of the Surgeon General, nearly half of all Americans alive who ever smoked have quit.

- About 90 percent of those who have quit have done so without formal treatment or smoking cessation devices.

- Nothing about smoking or quitting smoking impairs one's ability to determine whether or not they wish to smoke. The same is true about nicotine. Compare this to the intoxicating effect and debilitating withdrawal symptoms associated with truly addicting substances like heroine or cocaine.

- Any negative feelings a person might have upon giving up smoking are those that would be expected when one is frustrated by giving up any desired activity, such as dieting, nail biting or other such behavior.

"If members of our society were empowered to make their own decisions, then the whole rationale for the FDA would cease to exist."

— David A. Kessler
FDA Commissioner

TOBACCO IS ALREADY HIGHLY REGULATED

Tobacco is the most highly regulated, closely monitored consumer commodity in America. The list below shows the many federal agencies which currently regulate tobacco from the seedbed to the sales counter to the use of tobacco products by the consumer:

As part of the **US Department of Agriculture**, the **Consolidated Farm Services Agency's Tobacco and Peanut Division** controls production quotas for tobacco leaf and calculates minimum price levels. **Commodity Credit Corporation** administers the "no net cost" loan program. The **Agricultural Marketing Service** grades domestic tobacco leaf for auction and inspects all tobacco imported into the US.

The **Federal Communications Commission** enforces the ban on cigarette advertising and other tobacco products in the electronic media.

The **Federal Trade Commission** enforces requirements for format and rotation of required health warnings on advertising and packaging, oversees testing of cigarette "tar" and nicotine and carbon monoxide yields for annual report to Congress, and requires manufacturers to submit detailed information on expenditures for advertising and promotion for annual reports to Congress.

The **Department of Transportation** enforces prohibition of smoking on most domestic flights and negotiates international agreements to prohibit smoking on specific international routes.

The **US Department of the Treasury** collects federal excise taxes on cigarettes and other tobacco products which exceeded \$5.5 billion in fiscal year 1994.

The **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms** requires disclosure of certain information on packs and cartons and regulates the type of packaging and certain promotional practices.

The **US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)** conducts research and information programs concerning the use of tobacco products and issues Surgeon Generals' reports to Congress. Through the **Interagency Committee on Smoking and Health**, HHS reviews public and private sector initiatives on smoking and makes recommendations to Congress. In addition, HHS enforces prohibition of smoking in federally-funded facilities that provide health, education or library services to persons under 18. Through the **National Cancer Institute's ASSIST** grants, HHS provides up to \$135 million for seven-year programs of anti-smoking activities in 17 states; funds for similar activities in other states are provided by the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**.

The **Office on Smoking and Health** requires cigarette manufacturers to submit an annual list of ingredients added to tobacco in the manufacturing process and analyzes ingredients used for reports submitted to Congress.

The **General Services Administration** regulates smoking in Federal buildings.

The **Environmental Protection Agency** regulates pesticides that may be used on leaf grown domestically and on imported leaf. By issuing a 1993 report classifying environmental tobacco smoke as a Group A carcinogen, the EPA prompted state and local prohibitions on the use of cigarettes.

The **Department of Defense** prohibits smoking in all facilities, with exceptions for residential accommodations and private clubs.

The **US Postal Service** prohibits smoking in all facilities.

AMTRAK prohibits smoking on most passenger train routes.

It is unnecessary for the Food and Drug Administration to get involved with an already over-regulated industry. Doesn't our government have better things to do with its resources than add yet another federal agency to the list of tobacco regulators?

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT OF TOBACCO

Promotional items are available to help you show your support of tobacco. Order yours today!

Item 1: TOBACCO \$ PAID YOU ! stamps for checks or correspondence. Please specify type of stamp:

Refillable Self-inking Stamp	\$5.50
Plain Rubber Stamp	\$2.50

Item 2: Tobacco Leaf License Plates \$5.00
Full-sized (6" x 8") anodized aluminum license plates with a gold tobacco leaf on a black background.

Item 3: TOBACCO MONEY PAYS MY BILLS!
Receive a free bumpersticker by sending us a stamped, self-addressed business envelope.

Item 4: Tobacco Program Flyer Free
To receive a flyer on the tobacco program entitled "*THERE IS NO TOBACCO SUBSIDY !*" send us a stamped, self-addressed business size envelope.

To order promotional items or to request pamphlets and brochures, send your check, payable to Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corporation, to PO Box 12300 Raleigh, NC 27605. Requests for free materials **MUST** be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped business size envelope. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

TOBACCO CONTACTS

Tobacco Consumers Assn.	800-89SMOKE
Smokers' Rights Action Line	800-333-8683
United Smokers Association	800-872-2990

The *American Tobacco Grower* is published quarterly by Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corporation. Send mailing additions or changes to:

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Cooperative Stabilization Corporation
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Raleigh, North Carolina 27605

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RALEIGH, NC 27611

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"I had just cleaned up and sat down for super after a long hard day of harvesting tobacco when I heard a knock on the door. I thought it was strange to have a visitor at this late hour out here in the country. I opened the door and was met by two men displaying identification who said, 'We're from the Food and Drug Administration and we are going to confiscate your tobacco due to noncompliance with FDA nicotine content regulations.'"

Can you imagine Food and Drug Administration (FDA) agents, with criminal law enforcement powers, trampling through your fields telling you how to grow your tobacco, imposing heavy fines, and perhaps even worse?

How would you like undercover Federal Agents running "sting" operations on your farm and then seizing your crops if you fail to meet their unfair and unwarranted Federal bureaucratic mandates?

IMPOSSIBLE? Think Again

**THE FDA IS OUT TO DESTROY FARM FAMILIES.
TAKE ACTION TODAY TO PROTECT YOUR FAMILY AND FARM!**

If the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) gets away with declaring nicotine a "drug" and cigarettes a "nicotine/drug delivery device," tobacco farmers will face the possibility of FDA regulation of their tobacco crops. You are already forced to deal with and be monitored by the US Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and other agencies. You know first-hand what a nightmare federal government regulations can create for farmers. We must work now to prevent the FDA from joining the bandwagon of federal tobacco regulators.

If the Clinton/Kessler proposal to regulate tobacco and nicotine is enacted, you could face even more expensive reporting and oversight requirements by FDA agents. These FDA agents have broad powers, including the potential for seizure of tobacco plants for FDA violations, which could require farmers to face lengthy, expensive court battles just to regain access to their own crops.

FDA Commissioner David Kessler has said tobacco has no place in America. Hillary Clinton, Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, and others in the Clinton Administration, have echoed this sentiment. Clinton/Kessler claim their rule would stop young people from smoking. They are wrong. The Clinton/Kessler regulation would have little or no impact on youth smoking, but it would be devastating to American jobs and could destroy Tobaccoland overnight.

No one wants young people to smoke, and age restriction laws are on the books in every state. We must take steps to better enforce these laws, not create more bureaucracy. What President Clinton and Commissioner Kessler have in mind is simply more BIG GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE into the lives of adult citizens who chose to produce, sell or consume a legal product.

How can you help protect your family and farm? Take action now. See the reverse for complete instructions.

Let's keep the FDA off the farm.

THE CASE AGAINST FDA REGULATION OF TOBACCO

1. **FDA does not have jurisdiction over tobacco.** For more than 80 years, Congress has said regulating cigarettes is its job. The FDA has consistently admitted it has no basis for regulating cigarettes, and the Courts have agreed.
2. **Proposed FDA regulations would trample the First Amendment.** Advertising is a form of free speech, protected by the First Amendment of the US Constitution. In its quest to eventually eliminate tobacco, the FDA ignores this historic document and the rights it guarantees. After all, this is America.
3. **Tobacco is already highly regulated.** Tobacco is currently one of the most highly-regulated consumer products in America, with more than a dozen federal agencies and every state exerting control over tobacco. Farmers have more to do than deal with yet another bureaucratic agency.
4. **FDA proposals would not reduce youth smoking.** Underage smoking is already illegal in all 50 states. We must enforce the law, not add yet another bureaucratic agency with the power to destroy us. Long-term US government data show that overall youth smoking rates have declined nearly 40% since 1975. Meanwhile, illegal drug use by kids is soaring. International studies show, and former Surgeon General Koop and other anti-tobacco crusaders agree, that kids smoke mainly because of peer pressure or if their parents or siblings smoke. Advertising is not the reason kids take up smoking. Let's do something constructive to reduce youth smoking by enforcing existing laws.
5. **FDA cannot handle its current responsibilities.** FDA is failing in its core mission to approve lifesaving drugs and medical devices and to assure a safe food supply for the American public. Over 1,100 critical medical devices are currently awaiting FDA approval while FDA is pursuing control over tobacco. Former Senator Wallop (WY) blames 150,000 American heart attack deaths on FDA drug approval delays.

OPPOSE THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION'S REGULATION OF TOBACCO. HERE'S HOW:

1. Write a letter expressing your concerns about FDA regulation of tobacco and send it to your two Senators and Representative. Tell them you have just signed a petition opposing FDA regulation of tobacco and ask them to let you know their position on this issue. Write to:

The Honorable _____
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable _____
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

2. Circulate the attached petition for signatures.
3. Photocopy the petition for your friends to use to collect signatures.
4. Return completed petitions by November 30, 1995.

**Take action today to
Keep the FDA off the Farm !!!**

91715262

FDA OUT TO DESTROY FARM FAMILIES

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY ... ACT TODAY!

Do you want Food & Drug Administration Federal Agents, with criminal enforcement powers, trampling through your fields next year telling you exactly how to grow your tobacco or else face serious fines, or worse?

Do you want undercover Federal Agents running "sting" operations on your farms and then seizing your crops if you fail to meet their unfair and unwarranted Federal bureaucratic mandates?

If not, you need to act today to keep FDA agents out of your fields and out of the business of regulating tobacco.

If the FDA gets away with declaring nicotine a "drug" and tobacco a "nicotine/drug delivery device," tobacco farmers will face the possibility of FDA regulation of their tobacco crops. You already deal with the USDA and EPA. In fact, tobacco is regulated by every state and by at least 12 federal agencies already.

FDA head David Kessler has said tobacco has no place in America. Hillary Clinton, Donna Shalala and others in the Clinton Administration have echoed the same theme.

If the Clinton/Kessler proposal to regulate tobacco and nicotine is enacted, you could face even more extensive reporting and oversight by FDA agents. The FDA agents have broad powers, including the potential for seizure of tobacco plants for FDA violations. As a result, lengthy, expensive court battles could be necessary for farmers to try to get their crops back.

Clinton/Kessler claim their rule would stop young people from smoking. They are wrong. Their rule would have little or no impact on youth smoking. This is **BIG GOVERNMENT** at work; with an unquenchable thirst for power over your life. No one wants young people to smoke, but the FDA rule would cost jobs, ruin livelihoods and tobacco rural America almost overnight.

How can you help protect your farm and family? Act now! Write the FDA and send a copy of your letter to your Congressman and your two Senators. Some key points are listed on the back of this sheet.

COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 9, 1995

ACT NOW!

SEND THOSE LETTERS TODAY!

91715263

Here's how to address your FDA correspondence:

Docket Nos. 95N-0253 and 95N-0253J
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food & Drug Administration
12420 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, MD 20857

Here's how to address your Congressman and Senators

The Honorable _____
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable _____
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

POINTS TO MAKE

- * FDA has no jurisdiction over tobacco. For more than 80 years Congress has said regulating cigarettes is its job. On February 25, 1994, FDA Commissioner Kessler wrote, "We recognize that the regulation of cigarettes raises societal issues of great complexity and magnitude. It is vital in this context that Congress provide clear direction to the Agency."
What has changed since that statement? Nothing!
- * Tobacco is already highly regulated. At least a dozen federal agencies and every state have tobacco controls. Government should enforce what's already on the books!
- * The FDA can't handle its current workload. The FDA is already dragging its feet in approving life-saving drugs and medical devices. For example, former US Senator Wallop (WY) blames 150,000 heart attack deaths on FDA drug delays. The FDA also has a role in keeping our food supply safe. Does the FDA have time to waste on tobacco; an industry that is already highly regulated?
- * FDA proposals won't reduce youth smoking. Long-term U.S. government data show overall youth smoking rates declining dramatically, by nearly 40% since 1975. Meanwhile illegal drug use by kids is soaring. International studies show (and even former Surgeon General Koop and other anti-tobacco crusaders agree) that kids smoke mainly because of peer pressure, or if their parents or siblings smoke. Advertising is not the reason kids take up smoking.
- * Kessler claims to be worried about "youth access" to tobacco. His proposal would do everything but address that issue -- it doesn't offer a mechanism to strengthen enforcement of existing minimum age laws or otherwise address the real issue.
- * The FDA rule would toss the First Amendment on its ear. Advertising is a form of speech, and free speech is protected under our Constitution. Kessler would trample that historic document. This is America, not China or North Korea.

*The National Tobacco Council
September 1995*

91715264

KEEP THE FDA OUT OF TOBACCO !!!

We oppose efforts by the Food and Drug Administration to regulate tobacco and other unfair government action against smokers including tax increases or regulations on tobacco products.

[illegible]

Please photocopy this blank form and give it to fellow tobacco supporters to collect signatures.

Return filled petitions by November 30, 1995 to:

Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corporation • Post Office Box 12300 • Raleigh, NC 27605



Bright Belt Warehouse Association, Inc.
Serving The Flue-Cured Tobacco Warehouse Industry

October 26, 1995

The Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Docket Nos. 95N-0253 and 95N-0253J
Food and Drug Administration
12420 Parklawn Drive
Rockville, MD 20857

Attention: Dr. Kessler

Dear Sir:

As a concerned citizen and a member of the tobacco industry, I strongly object to the proposed FDA regulations regarding tobacco products. This proposal is another example of the government's continuing efforts to take away personal freedoms and further erode the U.S. Constitution. It is not the government's business and certainly not the FDA's right to dictate how American citizens live their lives and to determine which legal products they can and cannot use. Taxpayer money is being used to destroy a legal industry and to fight people producing a legal crop. This is not the way America is suppose to be.

FDA has no legal authority to control tobacco. When any government agency tries to assume more authority than it has, it should be eliminated. Prohibition is the same whether it is done by amending the Constitution or through the back door with taxation and over-regulation. The results are the same and Americans are denied another freedom. The last election was for smaller government and less regulation. Many in Washington still have not gotten the message.

Thank you for considering my concerns and I hope you will work to prevent this outrageous regulation of tobacco. If this is allowed, no consumer product will be safe from government bureaucracy.

Sincerely,

Mac L. Dunkley
Managing Director

cc: All N. C. Senators and Congressmen

The Council For
Burley Tobacco



October 3, 1995

Docket No: 95N-0253495N-0253J
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food & Drug Administration
12420 Parklawn Drive
Rockville, Maryland 20857

To Whom It May Concern:

The Council for Burley Tobacco, Inc. is deeply concerned that the FDA is proposing further regulation of tobacco products. Tobacco is already highly regulated. At least a dozen federal agencies and every state have tobacco controls. Government should enforce what is already on the books!

The FDA can't handle its current work load. The FDA is already dragging its feet in approving life saving drugs and medical devices. For example former U.S. Senator Wallop (Wyoming) blames 150,000 heart attacks deaths on FDA drug delays. The FDA also has a role in keeping our food supply safe. Does the FDA have time to waste on tobacco, an industry that is already highly regulated?

FDA proposals will not reduce youth smoking. Long term U.S. government data indicate almost a 40% decline in youth smoking since 1975. Meanwhile illegal drugs use by kids is soaring. International studies show that peer pressure not advertising is the reason kids take up smoking.

The FDA proposal fails to offer a mechanism to strengthen enforcement of existing minimum age laws or otherwise address the real issue.

The Council for Burley Tobacco, Inc. does not advocate smoking by young people. We believe smoking is an adult decision. The Council strongly supports the approach taken by Senator Wendell Ford (Kentucky) and Congressman Scotty Baesler (Kentucky) in their respective bills to "Prevent Youth Smoking".

91715267

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October 3, 1995

Both of these measures get at the heart of the youth smoking problem. Both bills also clearly indicate that the FDA has no business in further regulating tobacco products.

We therefore urge the FDA to withdraw its proposal at once.

Sincerely yours,

John R. Fritz, Jr.
President

91715268

AFDB
DCNA 724 SM

10/19/95 12:15:46
October 18, 1995

Docket Nos. 95N-0253 and 95N-0253J
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
12420 Parklawn Drive
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Sir or Madam:

The American Farm Bureau Federation is very concerned with the FDA's proposed regulations restricting the sale, distribution, marketing and advertising of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco products. Tobacco is already a highly regulated product with numerous federal agencies involved in tobacco control in every state. Further regulations proposed by the FDA will not have an impact on, much less reduce youth smoking. Strengthening the current enforcement system of existing minimum age laws would address the real issue.

Tobacco is particularly important to the agriculture of North Carolina, Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee, South Carolina and Georgia. Some 124,000 U.S. farms grew about 1,582 million pounds of tobacco on 675,000 acres in 1994. The estimated farm value of the 1994 crop is \$2.8 billion. The United States is the world's largest exporter of manufactured tobacco products. In 1994, U.S. manufacturers produced as estimated 685 billion cigarettes--about 31 percent were exported.

Consumption of cigarettes has declined 25 percent in the United States since 1981, from 640 billion cigarettes to 483 billion in 1994. U.S. government data show overall youth smoking rates declining dramatically, by nearly 40 percent since 1975. We all support efforts to curtail teenage smoking; however, studies show that kids smoke mainly because of peer pressure, or if their parents or siblings smoke. Advertising is not the real reason kids take up smoking and restricting the sale, distribution, marketing and advertising of cigarettes will not impact the already declining rate of youth smoking.

The American Farm Bureau Federation represents 4.4 million families across the nation and Puerto Rico. Tobacco is grown in 22 of our member states. The high per acre value of tobacco, which averaged \$4,148 in 1994, makes it critical to the income of the growers and important to the economies of the major producing states. On behalf of our farmers, many who depend on growing tobacco, we urge the FDA to reconsider the negative impact these proposals would have on the entire tobacco industry--particularly the producers.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Dean R. Kleckner
President

91715269



THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE GRANGE

P.O. BOX 9965 • GREENSBORO, N.C. 27429-9965 • 919/854-6000

October 10, 1995

Federal Drug Administration
Docket Nos. 95N-0253 and 95N-0253J
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
12420 Parklawn Drive
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear FDA Commissioner Kessler:

The North Carolina State Grange is a general farm organization, representing not only persons involved directly in tobacco but the majority of our members would be outside of the direct raising of tobacco.

Our organization is opposed to the Food and Drug Administration trying to take over the regulation of tobacco and tobacco products.

Every state in the United States has laws against the sale of tobacco products to minors. Each state can and should direct their own program without intervention from the Federal Government. At least a dozen federal agencies already are involved in the regulation of tobacco.

The proposal from your office would not reduce youth smoking. Peer pressure is the greatest issue involved. I understand that race cars carry various tobacco company logo's and I also understand that well over 97 percent of people who go to races are of smoking age.

Even if the FDA were to have the authority to regulate tobacco, it is doubtful that you would have the manpower to handle the workload that you must be anticipating taking on.

On behalf of the nearly 25,000 members of the Grange in North Carolina, please do not create any more regulation by the Government on the lives of people.

Sincerely,

Robert H. Caldwell
President

RHC:ks

91715270

PRESIDENT

Marion Malazzo
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IMMEDIATE PAST PRES.

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Littleton, MA 01460
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508-486-1028 Fax

National Association of Farmer Elected Committeemen

CHIEF LOBBY OFFICER

Vernie Magnuson
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402-585-5688

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& ALTERNATES**

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Lawrence McCloy
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Mason, IL 62440

NORTHWEST
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Ralph Sikes
RR 2 Box 386
Chadron, TX 79201

John Hines
RR 1 Box 58A-1
Hanover, KS 68045

SOUTHEAST
Bobby Miller
RR 1 Box 468
Greenwood, MS 38931

Orin Benson
RR 2 Box 10
Ventago, WI 53090

4 December, 1995

Docket No.s 95N-0253 and 95N-0253J
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
12420 Parklawn Dr.
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Kessler:

As the President of the National Association of Farmer Elected Committeemen (NAFEC), I submit these comments on proposed FDA regulations on tobacco published on August 11, 1995.

NAFEC members oversee USDA employees of the FSA and the administration of farm programs. In conjunction with County Committees, the Department of Agriculture has been very successful in overseeing various farm programs, including the tobacco program. NAFEC believes the correct role of government — to manage tobacco planting decisions — is currently being carried out as Congress intended.

We agree with Congress that the FDA does not have jurisdiction over tobacco products as marketed. The authority to regulate cigarettes lies with the Congress.

The USDA in recent years has closed field offices and eliminated much of the red tape associated with farm programs. These proposals would only add red tape and another level of bureaucracy for farmers and runs counter to recent USDA efforts. Each state and several government agencies already exert controls over tobacco that makes the product already highly regulated.

In addition, producers of various commodities have expressed their concern that the proposed regulations open the way for the FDA to single out other farm commodities for banishment based on political whims.

Finally and most importantly, tobacco production is a vital source of income for farmers and provides jobs in rural communities. These proposals could ultimately destroy the economic backbone of many rural communities.

SERVING AGRICULTURE SINCE 1965

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NAFEC's members are concerned about tobacco use amongst our youth, and especially in our rural localities. But these proposed regulations get away from the proper role the USDA, FDA and the effectiveness of public education programs on youth smoking.

Therefore, NAFEC urges that the FDA withdraw the proposed regulations.

Sincerely,

Marion Malazzo

Marion Malazzo
President, NAFEC



•Strength from the Land•

American Agriculture Movement, Inc.
Box 950
Dea Arc, Arkansas 72040
1-501-256-4788 - FAX: 256-4846

November 12, 1995

Docket No.s 95N-0253I
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
12420 Parklawn Dr.
Rockville, Md. 20857

To Whom It May Concern:

I commend the Clinton Administration's emphasis on educating our youth on the health risk of smoking. I can only hope those efforts include our rural youth and inner city kids, who often fall outside traditional education and outreach programs.

American Agriculture Movement of Arkansas believes the current system of tobacco programs, advertising restrictions and public education programs can be reformed under the present system without FDA jurisdiction.

Congress should set tobacco policy and should not give up its constitutionally mandated obligations to bureaucrats at the FDA.

The FDA already has its hands full. It was created to assure that safe and effective drugs, medical devices, and safe food are available to the American people. The proposed FDA regulations go well beyond the proper focus of FDA activities.

As a past national farm organization executive, I had the opportunity to travel to many small towns in tobacco country. Tobacco farmers help their community because they spend their money locally. Tobacco farmers lead many rural communities across America.

What is actually hurting the health of these rural communities is the import and potential future import of tobacco from foreign sources. Those imports eat at the income of many of our best farmers. Decreased income hurts rural health care because there is less community money and fewer people to support good doctors and community hospitals. That hurts more than some bureaucratic attempt to define tobacco as a drug.

Although there are many good ideas in the FDA regulations, I urge that we work with what works and go cautiously on drastic shifts of power between government agencies.

Sincerely,

Harvey Joe Senner
President, AAM Inc. of Arkansas

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NATIONAL FARMERS UNION

November 8, 1993

Docket No.s 95N-0253 and 95N-0253J
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
12420 Parklawn Drive
Rockville, MD 20857

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations on tobacco published on August 11, 1993. As the Vice President of Government Relations for the National Farmers Union, I am aware tobacco is already a highly regulated commodity involving at least a dozen federal agencies and all fifty states.

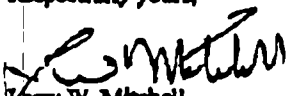
The United States Department of Agriculture has been very successful in overseeing production quotas and price levels for tobacco leaf. But the proposed FDA regulations go beyond the correct role of government which should be to manage tobacco planting. The proposed regulations open the possibility of an outright ban on the commodity.

Farmers of various commodities have expressed their concern that the proposed regulations open the way for the FDA to single out other farm commodities for banishment based on political whims.

I am also concerned, as all parents, about tobacco use among our young people, and especially our rural youth. But these proposed regulations do not address this problem in a workable manner.

For these reasons I urge that the FDA withdraw the proposed regulations.

Respectfully yours,


Larry W. Mitchell

Vice President of Government Relations

Texas Corn Growers Association

218 E. Bedford
Dimmitt, Texas 79027
Phone (806) 647-4224

3 November 1995

Docket Nos 95N-0253 and 95N-0253J
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
12420 Parklawn Dr.
Rockville, MD 20857

To The FDA:

I'm against the proposed FDA regulations on tobacco published in August, 1995.

Like everyone, I don't like the tobacco use amongst our youth, and especially in our rural towns. But these proposals don't face the facts. It takes education in the homes and schools to teach kids about smoking. It's not a job for Washington DC.

As the President of the Texas Corn Growers Association, I know tobacco is already a highly regulated commodity in every state and at the federal level. Enough is enough!

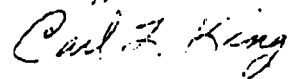
At the federal level, the Department of Agriculture has been successful in overseeing tobacco programs. These proposals end run the USDA and open the possibility of an outright ban on tobacco growing.

I know I've heard corn growers express their concern that the proposed regulations open the way for the FDA to single out other crops based on politics. It shouldn't be an FDA decision. That's why all these proposed regulations should be junked.

Tobacco production is a vital source of income for farmers and provides jobs in rural communities. Rural areas are struggling the way it is without taking away a traditional source of income that supports the whole community.

On behalf of the united members of my organization, I say plow these proposed regulations under and forget about them.

Sincerely,



Carl King, President

91715275



VIRGINIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

12580 West Creek Parkway • P.O. Box 27352 • Richmond, Virginia 23261 • (804) 784-1234

October 12, 1995

Dockets Nos. 95N - 2053 and 95N - 0253J
The Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration, Room 1-23
12420 Parklawn Drive
Rockville, Maryland 20857

To Whom it May Concern:

Pursuant to the notice in the Federal Register, Volume 60, No. 155, dated Friday, August 11, 1995, regarding "Regulations Restricting the Sale and Distribution of Cigarettes and Smokeless Tobacco Products to Protect Children and Adolescents," and as president of the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, I wish to express the views of this organization.

At the outset, permit me to say that the main purpose of this organization is to promote the economic well-being of our member farm families. Specifically, concerning our tobacco producer members, our overriding mission is "protecting and promoting the market for our American grown leaf."

The announcement on August 11, by President Clinton, in which he conveyed his support for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to go ahead and follow through on steps to implement this proposal to further regulate tobacco products, can only be viewed as another step in an ongoing personal vendetta by select members of the current Administration against tobacco and tobacco products. Unfortunately, implementation of such regulations would be at the expense of thousands of farmers, factory workers, and business employees who earn livelihoods for themselves and their families through this sector of our nation's economy.

I ask that you consider the following points before you proceed:

- it is already illegal to sell tobacco products to individuals under 18 in every state;
- attempts to prohibit brand name sponsorship of events violates First Amendment rights to Freedom of Speech;
- proposals to label certain tobacco products as "nicotine delivery devices" is a function of Congress, not the FDA;
- requiring cigarette and smokeless tobacco advertising to be in black & white in effect is highly discriminatory against a single industry selling a legal product;
- proposals for the reporting to FDA of all advertising of cigarette and smokeless tobacco is not a function of the FDA and is an example of attempts by a governmental agency to overstep its jurisdiction at the expense of Constitutional rights;
- asking an industry producing a legal product to fund a campaign against itself (the \$150 million per year industry-funded campaign against tobacco) is ludicrous and discriminatory; and,

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- other products, illegal for sale and harmful to minors and using far more sophisticated marketing techniques than tobacco companies, are not facing the same scrutiny or discrimination from your agency and will, in fact, probably benefit from FDA attempts to further limit the rights of tobacco companies to promote their legal product.

The actions as proposed in the Federal Register have serious implications to the personal rights and guarantees granted to all Americans by our Constitution. I cannot help but think that those individuals so committed to pursuing implementation of these regulatory burdens are shirking their responsibilities to serve the people, as clearly defined by our laws and codes, in order to promote personal agendas.

This action also brings into question the entire jurisdictional role of the FDA, one which sees the agency moving from one committed to helping improve the health and welfare of the American people as so clearly defined by law, to an agency bent on increasing its regulatory and enforcement powers to satisfy select individuals within the agency. In 1972, then FDA Commissioner Edwards so clearly stated that "cigarettes recommended for smoking pleasure are beyond the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act."

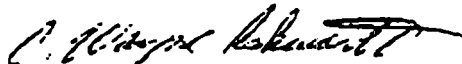
It is my understanding that the role of the FDA regarding drugs entails dealing with substances which use deals with therapeutic and medicinal purposes. How do tobacco products fit into this description?

We in the United States have entered into an era where the American people are saying enough is enough when it comes to attempts by the government to further regulate, and intrude on, the legal rights that have formed the backbone of our society for over 200 years. We are also at a time of crisis for our youth; they are confronted by a myriad of social problems and pressures that should be a concern to all of us. The fact that the FDA and the Administration seem to have decided that tobacco products are the number one problem facing our young people is most alarming and very disheartening.

Attempts to prohibit tobacco products through ever-increasing regulation will not work. The FDA has a well defined role; the decision of certain individuals within the agency to wage war on legal tobacco products does not fall within this realm. The FDA knows this, as do millions of Americans.

The credibility and the integrity of the FDA is at stake. These proposals must be withdrawn before more damage is done.

Sincerely,



C. Wayne Ashworth
President

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COMMENTS TO THE DOCKET AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

ORGANIZED LABOR

Completed Comments

- Members of the Tobacco Industry Labor Management Committee (LMC) submitted comments, including:
 - Bakery, Confectionery and Tobacco Workers International (BC&T)
 - International Association of Machinists (IAM)
 - Sheet Metal Workers International Association (SMWIA)
- BC&T President Frank Hurt sent a mailing to the 26 U.S. tobacco locals asking for their assistance in submitting comments to the docket.
- IAM representative to the LMC sent a mailing to all Machinist tobacco locals to assist them with their personal letterwriting campaign to the FDA.
- State Federation presidents in tobacco states filed comments:
 - Kentucky State AFL-CIO President Bob Curtis
 - North Carolina State AFL-CIO President Chris Scott
 - Georgia State AFL-CIO President Herb Mabry
 - Virginia State AFL-CIO President Dan LeBlanc
- LMC consultants conducted on-site briefing for and solicited letters from BC&T and other labor organizations' rank-and-file members, including:
 - BC&T Local 229-T Concord, North Carolina
 - BC&T Local 203-T Richmond, Virginia
 - BC&T Local 362-T Macon, Georgia
 - Wisconsin State Council of Senior Citizens
 - IAM Local 229-T Concord, North Carolina
- Hundreds of personal letters from rank-and-file union members in key tobacco states -- Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina and Virginia -- sent letters to the docket, with copies to Members of Congress.

• Approximately 50 state and local labor organizations, in 4 key tobacco states and in more than 12 non-tobacco states where LMC has a presence, sent letters to the docket and copied their Members of Congress. Labor organizations include:

- Air Transport Local of Nations Lodge 2643 (Florida)
- International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Local 368 (Florida)
- International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Local 1126 (Florida)
- Broward County AFL-CIO (Florida)
- Florida State Council of Machinists
- Broward County Building and Construction Trades Council (Florida)
- United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers Local 77 (Florida)
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 728 (Florida)
- Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 715 (Florida)
- Bakers Local Union 57 (Columbus, Ohio)
- Bakers Local Union 19 (Cleveland, Ohio)
- Ohio State Building and Construction Trades Council
- Sheet Metal Workers' International Association Local 10 (Louisville, Kentucky)
- Wisconsin State Council of Senior Citizens, Inc.
- Thumb Areas UAW Cap Council (Michigan)
- Ohio State Council of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America
- International Union of Operating Engineers Local Union 18 (Columbus, Ohio)
- Ohio Valley Council of Sheet Metal Workers
- Teamsters Miscellaneous and Industrial Workers Union Local 284 (Columbus, Ohio)
- Minneapolis Building & Construction Trades Council
- Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades Council Local Union 386 (Minneapolis, Minnesota)
- Pipe Fitters Local Union 539 (Minneapolis, Minnesota)
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 948 (Flint, Michigan)
- Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers' Local Union 190L (Minneapolis, Minnesota)
- International Union of Elevator Constructors Local Union 9 (Minneapolis, Minnesota)
- Minneapolis Central Labor Council

- BC&T Local 253 (Cincinnati, Ohio)
- BC&T Local 81 (Traverse City, Michigan)
- BC&T Local 22 (Minneapolis, Minnesota)
- Minnesota State Building and Construction Trades Council
- Operative Plasters' Local 2065 (Minneapolis, Minnesota)
- Sheet Workers Local 10 (St. Paul, Minnesota)
- Plaster Tenders Union Local 111 (Minneapolis, Minnesota)
- United Food & Commercial Workers Region 7 (Bellevue, WA)
- International Union of Operating Engineers Local 234 (Iowa)
- Laborers' International Union of North America Local 1140 (Iowa)
- Iowa Laborers' District Council
- Laborers' International Union of North America Local 353 (Iowa)
- AFSCME Local 1185 (Iowa)
- AFSCME Local 1868 (Iowa)
- AFSCME Local 35 (Iowa)
- Laborer's International Union of North America Local 1140 (Nebraska)
- Hotel Employees, Restaurant Employees Union Local 57 (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)
- Sheet Metal Workers Local 7 (Lansing, Michigan)
- School Employees Local 1201 (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)
- BC&T Local 2-T -- 10 letters (Wheeling, WV)
- BC&T Local 362-T -- 146 letters (Macon, Georgia)

Ongoing

- Consultants continue to work with state and local organizations in tobacco and non-tobacco states to generate letters to the docket.
- AFL-CIO support groups representing women and minorities (Coalition of Labor Union Women and A. Philip Randolph Institute) have been encouraged to submit comments to the docket.



**AIR TRANSPORT LOCAL OF NATIONS
LODGE 2643**



International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

4348 N.W. 36th Street, Suite #102, Miami, Florida 33166
P.O. Box 595078, Miami, Florida 33159
(305) 885-8310

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration, Room 1-23
12420 PARKLAWN DR.
Rockville, MD 20857

RE: 95M-0253

(Regulations Restricting the sale and Distribution of Cigarettes and Tobacco Products)

On Behalf of the IAMAW Local 2643, I am writing to express our opposition to the Food and Drug Administration's proposed regulations on tobacco products. Controlling sales of tobacco products to minors is an important issue. However, we believe FDA regulation is the wrong approach.

The proposed regulations, taken in their entirety, will certainly lead to much more severe controls on the use of tobacco products by adults. This would have a devastating impact on the tobacco industry. This industry is highly unionized and offers workers high wages and extensive benefits. The jobs of thousands of our union brothers and sisters working in the industry are jeopardized by FDA regulation. Many of these workers are women and minorities.

But the economic fallout from such restrictions would go much further. Not only will thousands of jobs directly related to the tobacco industry be lost, so will tens of thousands of other jobs around the country which are indirectly dependent on the tobacco industry.

Workers involved in: transporting tobacco products, providing supplies such as paper, cardboard, inks and machinery, the hospitality industry, retail sales such as grocery and convenience stores and countless other industries will feel the adverse impact of these regulations. Many of these workers are union members.

We are also concerned that enforcing these regulations will force the FDA to stretch its already limited resources and deny the American public the critical services for which it was created.

Finally, the proposed regulations would seriously threaten the viability of professional motorsports and other sporting events. This not only would deny men and women around the country these popular recreational activities, but also lead to the loss of jobs associated with putting on these events.

Again, the problem of teen smoking warrants serious attention. But regulating away thousands of American jobs is not the way to do it. Government should encourage employment, not destroy it. The proposed regulations now before the FDA go well beyond curbing teenage smoking and are aimed at destroying an American industry and all the jobs directly and indirectly associated with it.

In Solidarity,

Nelson Delgado
Nelson Delgado
President

1st Foreign Carrier Local Lodge in the IAM

91715282



IAM & AW
Local Lodge 1128

A Real Voice on the Job

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration, Room 1-23
12420 PARKLAWN DR.
Rockville, MD 20857

RE: 95N-0253

(Regulations Restricting the sale and Distribution of Cigarettes and Tobacco Products)

On Behalf of the IAM&AW Local 1128, I am writing to express our opposition to the Food and Drug Administration's proposed regulations on tobacco products. Controlling sales of tobacco products to minors is an important issue. However, we believe FDA regulation is the wrong approach.

The proposed regulations, taken in their entirety, will certainly lead to much more severe controls on the use of tobacco products by adults. This would have a devastating impact on the tobacco industry. This industry is highly unionized and offers workers high wages and extensive benefits. The jobs of thousands of our union brothers and sisters working in the industry are jeopardized by FDA regulation. Many of these workers are women and minorities.

But the economic fallout from such restrictions would go much further. Not only will thousands of jobs directly related to the tobacco industry be lost, so will tens of thousands of other jobs around the country which are indirectly dependent on the tobacco industry.

Workers involved in: transporting tobacco products, providing supplies such as paper, cardboard, inks and machinery, the hospitality industry, retail sales such as grocery and convenience stores and countless other industries will feel the adverse impact of these regulations. Many of these workers are union members.

We are also concerned that enforcing these regulations will force the FDA to stretch its already limited resources and deny the American public the critical services for which it was created.

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In Solidarity,


Nelson Velona
President

4340 N.W. 36th Street • Miami Springs, Florida 33186 • (305) 887-4033 • Fax: (305) 884-1745

THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE IAM & AW LEADING THE FIGHT FOR AMERICA'S WORKING FAMILIES

91715283



**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION of MACHINISTS
and AEROSPACE WORKERS**

AFL-CIO

**SEMINOLE LODGE NO. 368
4348 NW 39th St. Suite 108
Miami, FL 33106**

Phone: (305) 884-0310

FAX: (305) 884-1745

**Deckers Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration, Room 1-23
12420 PARKLAWN DR.
Rockville, MD 20857**

RE: 95N-0253

(Regulations Restricting the sale and Distribution of Cigarettes and Tobacco Products)

On Behalf of the IAMAW Local 368, I am writing to express our opposition to the Food and Drug Administration's proposed regulations on tobacco products. Controlling sales of tobacco products to minors is an important issue. However, we believe FDA regulation is the wrong approach.

The proposed regulations, taken in their entirety, will certainly lead to much more severe controls on the use of tobacco products by adults. This would have a devastating impact on the tobacco industry. This industry is highly unionized and offers workers high wages and extensive benefits. The jobs of thousands of our union brothers and sisters working in the industry are jeopardized by FDA regulation. Many of these workers are women and minorities.

But the economic fallout from such restrictions would go much further. Not only will thousands of jobs directly related to the tobacco industry be lost, so will tens of thousands of other jobs around the country which are indirectly dependent on the tobacco industry.

Workers involved in: transporting tobacco products, providing supplies such as paper, cardboard, inks and machinery, the hospitality industry, retail sales such as grocery and convenience stores and countless other industries will feel the adverse impact of these regulations. Many of these workers are union members.

We are also concerned that enforcing these regulations will force the FDA to stretch its already limited resources and deny the American public the critical services for which it was created.

Finally, the proposed regulations would seriously threaten the viability of professional motorsports and other sporting events. This not only would deny men and women around the country these popular recreational activities, but also lead to the loss of jobs associated with putting on these events.

Again, the problem of teen smoking warrants serious attention. But regulating away thousands of American jobs is not the way to do it. Government should encourage employment, not destroy it. The proposed regulations now before the FDA go well beyond curbing teenage smoking and are aimed at destroying an American industry and all the jobs directly and indirectly associated with it.

In Solidarity,

Don Murrin
**Don Murrin
President**

91715284



BROWARD COUNTY AFL-CIO

DANIEL REYNOLDS
President

FRANK C. ORTIS
Vice President

SALLISA RICHARDVILLE
Secretary-Treasurer

DAVE LARBAU
Scoutmaster-at-Arms

TONY CANNESTRO
Treasurer

JACK DOWNS
Treasurer

BOD HOLLADAY
Treasurer

GLORIA D. PRESSLEY
Treasurer

NDY WILDS
Treasurer

WALTER J. BROWNE
Division Vice President

LOU PALZARANO
Division Vice President

JO ANN FRPNCH
Division Vice President

TONY GENTILE
Division Vice President

DONALD J.A. ROTONDA
Division Vice President

JAMES A. WELDON
Division Vice President

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-303)
Food and Drug Administration, Room 1-23
12420 PARKLAWN DR.
Rockville, MD 20857

RE: 95M-0253
(Regulations Restricting the sale and Distribution of Cigarettes and Tobacco Products)

On Behalf of the Broward County AFL-CIO, I am writing to express our opposition to the Food and Drug Administration's proposed regulations on tobacco products. Controlling sales of tobacco products to minors is an important issue. However, we believe FDA regulation is the wrong approach.

The proposed regulations, taken in their entirety, will certainly lead to much more severe controls on the use of tobacco products by adults. This would have a devastating impact on the tobacco industry. This industry is highly unionized and offers workers high wages and extensive benefits. The jobs of thousands of our union brothers and sisters working in the industry are jeopardized by FDA regulation. Many of these workers are women and minorities.

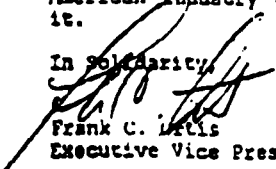
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Workers involved in: transporting tobacco products, providing supplies such as paper, cardboard, inks and machinery, the hospitality industry, retail sales such as grocery and convenience stores and countless other industries will feel the adverse impact of these regulations. Many of these workers are union members.

We are also concerned that enforcing these regulations will force the FDA to stretch its already limited resources and deny the American public the critical services for which it was created.

Finally, the proposed regulations would seriously threaten the viability of professional motorsports and other sporting events. This not only would deny men and women around the country these popular recreational activities, but also lead to the loss of jobs associated with putting on these events.

Again, the problem of teen smoking warrants serious attention. But regulating away thousands of American jobs is not the way to do it. Government should encourage employment, not destroy it. The proposed regulations now before the FDA go well beyond curbing teenage smoking and are aimed at destroying an American industry and all the jobs directly and indirectly associated with it.

In Solidarity,

Frank C. Ortis
Executive Vice President



FLORIDA STATE COUNCIL
International Association of Machinists
& Aerospace Workers

Office of:
Frank C. Ortis, President

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration, Room 1-23
12420 PARKLAWN DR.
Rockville, MD 20857

RE: 95N-0253
(Regulations Restricting the Sale and Distribution of Cigarettes and Tobacco Products)

On Behalf of the Florida State Council of Machinists, I am writing to express our opposition to the Food and Drug Administration's proposed regulations on tobacco products. Controlling sales of tobacco products to minors is an important issue. However, we believe FDA regulation is the wrong approach.

The proposed regulations, taken in their entirety, will certainly lead to much more severe controls on the use of tobacco products by adults. This would have a devastating impact on the tobacco industry. This industry is highly unionized and offers workers high wages and extensive benefits. The jobs of thousands of our union brothers and sisters working in the industry are jeopardized by FDA regulation. Many of these workers are women and minorities.

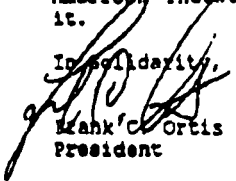
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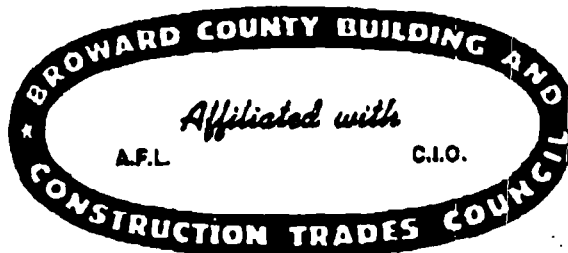
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In solidarity,

Frank C. Ortis
President

91715286



Mail To:
3057 West Broward Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale
Florida 33312
305-792-2465
FAX (305) 797-7824

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration, Room 1-23
12420 PARKLAWN DR.
Rockville, MD 20857

RE: 95W-0253

(Regulations Restricting the sale and Distribution of Cigarettes and Tobacco Products)

On Behalf of the Broward County Building and Construction Trades, I am writing to express our opposition to the Food and Drug Administration's proposed regulations on tobacco products. Controlling sales of tobacco products to minors is an important issue. However, we believe FDA regulation is the wrong approach.

The proposed regulations, taken in their entirety, will certainly lead to much more severe controls on the use of tobacco products by adults. This would have a devastating impact on the tobacco industry. This industry is highly unionized and offers workers high wages and extensive benefits. The jobs of thousands of our union brothers and sisters working in the industry are jeopardized by FDA regulation. Many of these workers are women and minorities.

But the economic fallout from such restrictions would go much further. Not only will thousands of jobs directly related to the tobacco industry be lost, so will tens of thousands of other jobs around the country which are indirectly dependent on the tobacco industry.

Workers involved in: transporting tobacco products, providing supplies such as paper, cardboard, inks and machinery, the hospitality industry, retail sales such as grocery and convenience stores and countless other industries will feel the adverse impact of these regulations. Many of these workers are union members.

We are also concerned that enforcing these regulations will force the FDA to stretch its already limited resources and deny the American public the critical services for which it was created.

Finally, the proposed regulations would seriously threaten the viability of professional motorsports and other sporting events. This not only would deny men and women around the country these popular recreational activities, but also lead to the loss of jobs associated with putting on these events.

Again, the problem of teen smoking warrants serious attention. But regulating away thousands of American jobs is not the way to do it. Government should encourage employment, not destroy it. The proposed regulations now before the FDA go well beyond curbing teenage smoking and are aimed at destroying an American industry and all the jobs directly and indirectly associated with it.

In Solidarity,


Jim Nelson
President

91715287



ALLIE A. RICHARDVILLE
Business Manager

United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers

ROOFERS UNION LOCAL NO. 77

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration, Room 1-23
12420 PARKLAWN DR.
Rockville, MD 20857

RE: 95N-0253

(Regulations Restricting the sale and Distribution of Cigarettes and Tobacco Products)

On Behalf of the Roofers Union Local 77, I am writing to express our opposition to the Food and Drug Administration's proposed regulations on tobacco products. Controlling sales of tobacco products to minors is an important issue. However, we believe FDA regulation is the wrong approach.

The proposed regulations, taken in their entirety, will certainly lead to much more severe controls on the use of tobacco products by adults. This would have a devastating impact on the tobacco industry. This industry is highly unionized and offers workers high wages and extensive benefits. The jobs of thousands of our union brothers and sisters working in the industry are jeopardized by FDA regulation. Many of these workers are women and minorities.

But the economic fallout from such restrictions would go much further. Not only will thousands of jobs directly related to the tobacco industry be lost, so will tens of thousands of other jobs around the country which are indirectly dependent on the tobacco industry.

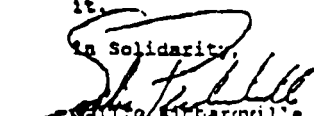
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In Solidarity,


Allie A. Richardville
Business Manager

International
Electrician



Brotherhood
Workers

LOCAL No. 728

ELECTRICAL WORKERS BUILDING

201 SOUTHEAST 24TH STREET

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33316-3999

(305) 525-3106

FAX (305) 525-5742

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration, Room 1-23
12420 PARKLAWN DR.
Rockville, MD 20857

RE: 95N-0253

(Regulations Restricting the sale and Distribution of Cigarettes and Tobacco Products)

On Behalf of the IBEW Local 728, I am writing to express our opposition to the Food and Drug Administration's proposed regulations on tobacco products. Controlling sales of tobacco products to minors is an important issue. However, we believe FDA regulation is the wrong approach.

The proposed regulations, taken in their entirety, will certainly lead to much more severe controls on the use of tobacco products by adults. This would have a devastating impact on the tobacco industry. This industry is highly unionized and offers workers high wages and extensive benefits. The jobs of thousands of our union brothers and sisters working in the industry are jeopardized by FDA regulation. Many of these workers are women and minorities.

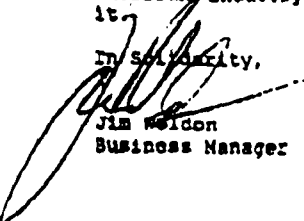
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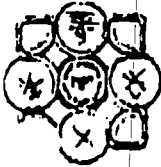
We are also concerned that enforcing these regulations will force the FDA to stretch its already limited resources and deny the American public the critical services for which it was created.

Finally, the proposed regulations would seriously threaten the viability of professional motorsports and other sporting events. This not only would deny men and women around the country these popular recreational activities, but also lead to the loss of jobs associated with putting on these events.

Again, the problem of teen smoking warrants serious attention. But regulating away thousands of American jobs is not the way to do it. Government should encourage employment, not destroy it. The proposed regulations now before the FDA go well beyond curbing teenage smoking and are aimed at destroying an American industry and all the jobs directly and indirectly associated with it.

In Solidarity,

Jim Weldon
Business Manager

91715289



PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS LOCAL UNION No. 719

Of the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the
Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada

2302 SOUTH ANDREWS AVENUE
FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33316

Phones: (305) 522-2532
(305) 522-0263
Fax: (305) 524-6234

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration, Room 1-23
12420 PARKLAWN DR.
Rockville, MD 20857

RE: 95N-0253

(Regulations Restricting the sale and Distribution of Cigarettes and
Tobacco Products)

On Behalf of the Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 719, I am writing to express
our opposition to the Food and Drug Administration's proposed regulations on
tobacco products. Controlling sales of tobacco products to minors is an
important issue. However, we believe FDA regulation is the wrong approach.

The proposed regulations, taken in their entirety, will certainly lead to
much more severe controls on the use of tobacco products by adults. This
would have a devastating impact on the tobacco industry. This industry is
highly unionized and offers workers high wages and extensive benefits. The
jobs of thousands of our union brothers and sisters working in the industry
are jeopardized by FDA regulation. Many of these workers are women and
minorities.

But the economic fallout from such restrictions would go much further. Not
only will thousands of jobs directly related to the tobacco industry be lost,
so will tens of thousands of other jobs around the country which are
indirectly dependent on the tobacco industry.

Workers involved in: transporting tobacco products, providing supplies such
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sales such as grocery and convenience stores and countless other industries
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union members.

We are also concerned that enforcing these regulations will force the FDA to
stretch its already limited resources and deny the American public the
critical services for which it was created.

Finally, the proposed regulations would seriously threaten the viability of
professional motorsports and other sporting events. This not only would deny
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encourage employment, not destroy it. The proposed regulations now before the
FDA go well beyond curbing teenage smoking and are aimed at destroying an
American industry and all the jobs directly and indirectly associated with
it.

In solidarity,


Bob Calder
Business Manager

91715290

Bakers Local Union No. 57

555 EAST RICH STREET
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215-3395

221-5541

BAKERY, CONFECTIONERY & TOBACCO WORKERS
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF AMERICA
AFL-CIO

September 26, 1995

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration, Room 1-23
12420 Parklawn Drive
Rockville, MD 20857

RE: 95N-0253
(Regulations Restricting the Sale and Distribution of Cigarettes and Tobacco Products)

On behalf of Bakers Local 57, I am writing to express our opposition to the Food and Drug Administration's proposed regulations on tobacco products. Controlling sales of tobacco products to minors is an important issue. However, we believe FDA regulation is the wrong approach.

The proposed regulations, taken in their entirety, will certainly lead to much more severe controls on the use of tobacco products by adults. This would have a devastating impact on the tobacco industry. This industry is highly unionized and offers workers high wages and extensive benefits. The jobs of thousands of our union brothers and sisters working in the industry are jeopardized by FDA regulation. Many of these workers are women and minorities.

But the economic fallout from such restrictions would go much further. Not only will thousands of jobs directly related to the tobacco industry be lost, so will tens of thousands of other jobs around the country which are indirectly dependent on the tobacco industry.

Workers involved in: transporting tobacco products, providing supplies such as paper, cardboard, inks and machinery, the hospitality industry, retail sales such as grocery and convenience stores and countless other industries will feel the adverse impact of these regulations. Many of these workers are union members.

We are also concerned that enforcing these regulations will force the FDA to stretch its already limited resources and deny the American public the critical services for which it was created.

Finally, the proposed regulations would seriously threaten the viability of professional motorsports and other sporting events. This not only would deny men and women around the country these popular recreational activities, but also lead to the loss of jobs associated with putting on these events.

LOOK FOR THIS LABEL ON



BAKERY & CONFECTIONERY PRODUCTS

91715291

Again, the problem of teen smoking warrants serious attention. But regulating away thousands of American jobs is not the way to do it. Government should encourage employment, not destroy it. The proposed regulations now before the FDA go well beyond curbing teenage smoking and are aimed at destroying an American industry and all the jobs directly and indirectly associated with it.

Sincerely,


Vester Newsome
Financial Secretary-Treasurer

91715292

BAKERS'

Barbara Walden Peterson
President
Paul LaBelle
Vice-President



LOCAL UNION No. 19

1870 EAST 18TH STREET CLEVELAND, OHIO 44114-3694
PHONE: 216/771-5388 1-800-382-2120 FAX: 216/771-8232

September 29, 1995

Dockers Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration, Room 1-23
12420 Parklawn Drive
Rockville, MD 20857

RE: 95N-0253
(Regulations Restricting the Sale and Distribution of Cigarettes and Tobacco Products)

On behalf of Bakers' Local Union 19, I am writing to express our opposition to the Food and Drug Administration's proposed regulations on tobacco products. Controlling sales of tobacco products to minors is an important issue. However, we believe FDA regulation is the wrong approach.

The proposed regulations, taken in their entirety, will certainly lead to much more severe controls on the use of tobacco products by adults. This would have a devastating impact on the tobacco industry. This industry is highly unionized and offers workers high wages and extensive benefits. The jobs of thousands of our union brothers and sisters working in the industry are jeopardized by FDA regulation. Many of these workers are women and minorities.

But the economic fallout from such restrictions would go much further. Not only will thousands of jobs directly related to the tobacco industry be lost, so will tens of thousands of other jobs around the country which are indirectly dependent on the tobacco industry.

Workers involved in: transporting tobacco products, providing supplies such as paper, cardboard, inks and machinery, the hospitality industry, retail sales such as grocery and convenience stores and countless other industries will feel the adverse impact of these regulations. Many of these workers are union members.

We are also concerned that enforcing these regulations will force the FDA to stretch its

91715293

Page 2

already limited resources and deny the American public the critical services for which it was created.

Finally, the proposed regulations would seriously threaten the viability of professional motor sports and other sporting events. This not only would deny men and women around the country these popular recreational activities, but also lead to the loss of jobs associated with putting on these events.

Again, the problem of teen smoking warrants serious attention. But regulating away thousands of American jobs is not the way to do it. Government should encourage employment, not destroy it. The proposed regulations now before the FDA go well beyond curbing teenage smoking and are aimed at destroying an American industry and all the jobs directly and indirectly associated with it.

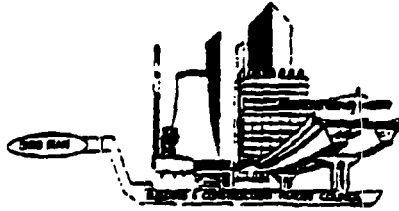
Sincerely yours,



Barbara Walden, President
Bakers' Local Union No. 19

BW/may

91715294



OHIO STATE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL
236 E. Town Street Columbus, Ohio 43215 221-3682

October 5, 1993

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration, Room 1-23
12420 Parklawn Drive
Rockville, MD 20857

RE: 95N-0253

(Regulations Restricting the Sale and Distribution of Cigarettes and Tobacco Products)

On behalf of the Ohio State Building and Construction Trades Council, I am writing to express our opposition to the Food and Drug Administration's proposed regulations on tobacco products. Controlling sales of tobacco products to minors is an important issue. However, we believe FDA regulation is the wrong approach.

The proposed regulations, taken in their entirety, will certainly lead to much more severe controls on the use of tobacco products by adults. This would have a devastating impact on the tobacco industry. This industry is highly unionized and offers workers high wages and extensive benefits. The jobs of thousands of our union brothers and sisters working in the industry are jeopardized by FDA regulation. Many of these workers are women and minorities.

But the economic fallout from such restrictions would go much further. Not only will thousands of jobs directly related to the tobacco industry be lost, so will tens of thousands of other jobs around the country which are indirectly dependent on the tobacco industry.

Workers involved in: transporting tobacco products, providing supplies such as paper, cardboard, inks and machinery, the hospitality industry, retail sales such as grocery and convenience stores and countless other industries will feel the adverse impact of these regulations. Many of these workers are union members.

We are also concerned that enforcing these regulations will force the FDA to stretch its already limited resources and deny the American public the critical services for which it was created.

Finally, the proposed regulations would seriously threaten the viability of professional motor sports and other sporting events. This not only would deny men and women around the country these popular recreational activities but also lead to the loss of jobs associated with putting on these events.

91715295

Doctors Management Branch
Food and Drug Administration
Page Two
October 5, 1995

Again, the problem of teen smoking warrants serious attention. But regulating away thousands of American jobs is not the way to do it. Government should encourage employment, not destroy it. The proposed regulations now before the FDA go well beyond curbing teenage smoking and are aimed at destroying an American industry and all the jobs directly and indirectly associated with it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert Y. Farrington". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Robert Y. Farrington
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

91715296



Sheet Metal Workers' International Association

LOCAL UNION No. 110

7711 Beulah Church Road

Louisville, KY 40228

Ronald McCallister
Michael Schuler
Business Representatives

Carl M. Holzknecht
Business Manager/Financial Secy.

Phone 502-231-2540
FAX 502-231-2565

October 3, 1995

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
Room 1-23
12430 Parklawn Drive
Rockville, MD. 20857

RE: 95N-0253

(Regulations Restricting the Sale and Distribution of
Cigarettes and Tobacco Products)

On behalf of Sheet metal Workers Local 110, I am writing to express our opposition to the Food and Drug Administration's proposed regulations on tobacco products. Controlling sales of tobacco products to minors is an important issue. However we believe FDA regulation is the wrong approach.

The proposed regulations, taken in their entirety, will certainly lead to much more severe controls on the use of tobacco products by adults. This would have a devastating impact on the tobacco industry.

The tobacco industry is highly unionized and offers workers high wages and extensive benefits. The jobs of many members of SMWIA Local 110 depend on the tobacco industry. The jobs of thousands of other union members working in the industry also are jeopardized by FDA regulation. Many of these workers are women and minorities.

But the economic fallout from such restrictions would go much further. Not only will thousands of jobs directly related to the tobacco industry be lost, so will tens of thousands of other jobs around the country which are indirectly dependant on the tobacco industry.

Workers involved in: transporting tobacco products, providing supplies such as paper, cardboard, inks and machinery, the hospitality industry, retail sales such as grocery and convenience stores and countless other industries will feel the adverse impact of these regulations. Many of these workers are union members.

(1)

America Works Best When We Say Union Yes

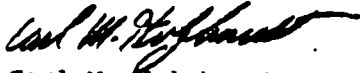
91715297

We are also concerned that enforcing these regulations will force the FDA to stretch its already limited resources and deny the American public the critical services for which it was created.

Finally, the proposed regulations would seriously threaten the viability of professional motorsports and other sporting events. This not only would deny men and women around the country these popular recreational activities, but also lead to loss of jobs associated with putting on these events.

Again, the problem of teen smoking warrants serious attention. But regulating away thousands of American jobs is not the way to do it. Government should encourage employment, not destroy it. The proposed regulations now before the FDA go well beyond curbing teenage smoking and are aimed at destroying an American industry and all the jobs directly and indirectly associated with it.

Sincerely,



Carl M. Holzknacht
Business Manager
Sheet Metal Workers Local 110

91715298



Wisconsin State Council of Senior Citizens, Inc.

84248 West Greenfield Ave. - Suite A210
West Allis, Wisconsin 53214
(414) 445-0080 • Fax (414) 443-0082



October 4, 1995

Deputy Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration, Room 1-23
12420 Parkview Dr.
Rockville, M.D. 20857

Re: 95 N-0253

(Regulation's restricting the sale and distribution of cigarettes and tobacco products).

On behalf of the Wisconsin State Council of Senior Citizens, I am writing to express our opposition to the Food and Drug Administration's proposed regulations on tobacco products. Controlling sales of tobacco products to minors is an important issue. However, we believe FDA regulations is the wrong approach.

The proposed regulations, when in their entirety, will certainly lead to much more severe controls on the use of tobacco products by adults. This would have a devastating impact on the tobacco industry. This industry is highly unionized and offers workers high wages and extensive benefits. The jobs of many thousands of union members working in the industry are jeopardized by FDA regulations. Many of their workers are women and minorities. Our State Council is made up of mostly retired union members.

But the economic fallout from such restrictions would go much further. Not only will thousands of jobs directly related to the tobacco industry be lost, so will tens of thousands of other jobs around the country which are indirectly dependent on the tobacco industry.

Workers involved in transporting tobacco products, providing supplies such as paper, cardboard, inks and machinery, the hospitality industry, retail sales such as grocery and convenience stores and countless other industries will feel the adverse impact of these regulations. Many of these workers are union members.

We are also concerned that enforcing these regulations will force the FDA to stretch its already limited resources and deny the American public the critical services for which it was created.

91715299

Finally, the proposed regulations would seriously threaten the viability of professional motorsports and other sporting events. This not only would deny men and women around the country these popular recreational activities, but also lead to the loss of jobs associated with putting on these events.

Again, the problem of teen smoking warrants serious attention. But regulating away thousands of American jobs is not the way to do it. Government should encourage employment, not destroy it. The proposed regulations now before the FDA go well beyond curbing teenage smoking and are aimed at destroying an American industry and all the jobs directly and indirectly associated with it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles William".

Charles William
President

Bakery, Confectionery and Tobacco Workers International Union

10401 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, KENSINGTON, MARYLAND 20895-3361
TELEPHONE (301) 933-8600 FAX (301) 946-8452

FRANK HURT
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

MEMORANDUM

October 2, 1995

FROM: Frank Hurt *FH*
International President
TO: Principal Officers of U.S. Tobacco Locals
SUBJECT: FDA Letters

As you know, the BC&T has been working closely with the Tobacco Labor Management Committee to fight the proposed Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulation of tobacco products.

Currently, the FDA is accepting "comments" on the proposed regulations for the record. This is a critical time period on this issue. The deadline for submitting "comments" is November 9.

It would be extremely helpful to these efforts to have the principal officer of the local union and the membership offer submissions to the FDA in the form of letters. Attached, please find a sample letter for the principal officer of the local union to send (on letterhead) to the FDA and a background sheet for the members as they prepare their personal letters. Also included is a summary of the proposed FDA regulations.

We are recommending that the members give their letters to the local so that you can package and send them in to the FDA. This will help you monitor the progress of this campaign.

Please feel free to make any changes you feel necessary to the sample letter or the background sheet. We would appreciate it if you would send copies of the local union letter and if possible, individual members' letters to me.

Thank you very much for your assistance. If you have any questions, please call Public Relations Director Carolyn Jacobson or Research Director Ray Scannell.

FH/CJJ:kfw
Enclosures

cc: Industry Vice President Bobby Curtis
U.S. Tobacco Representatives

91715301

Draft submissions from tobacco locals to FDA

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
room 1-23
12420 Parklawn Drive
Rockville, MD 20857

RE: 95N-0253
(Regulations Restricting the Sale and Distribution of Cigarettes and Smokeless Tobacco Products)

On behalf of the Bakery, Confectionery and Tobacco Workers Local (local number), I am writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed regulation of tobacco products by the FDA.

The proposed regulations, taken in their entirety, will certainly lead to much more severe controls on the use of tobacco products by adults. They go right at the economic viability of the industry and in turn the jobs of our members.

What is most outrageous is that rarely in all of the debate over tobacco regulation is there ever a mention of the jobs of thousands of hard-working men and women whose livelihoods depend on the tobacco industry. The excellent wages and benefits we earn enable us to provide for our families, send our children to college, care for our parents, grandparents and grandchildren.

Because of these wages and benefits, we bolster the standard of living and quality of life in our community. Tobacco workers will not be the only ones hurt by this attack on the tobacco industry. The people who work in the businesses we patronize — the restaurants, grocery stores, appliance shops, hairdressers and car dealers to name a few — will pay a high price as well for these misguided and punitive regulations.

Our union agrees that teen smoking is an important issue that should be addressed. But regulating away thousands of jobs is not the answer. States are already required by federal law to pass legislation restricting access of tobacco products to minors. Our union and the industry support these efforts.

Tobacco is a legal product produced by American workers and should continue to be treated as such. A percentage of American adults will choose to use tobacco products.

The real issue is whether they will be made by American workers who earn high wages and extensive benefits or by overseas workers earning substandard wages and no benefits.

The FDA should reject these proposals and utilize its already limited resources to provide the services to the American people for which the agency was created.

Sincerely,

91715302

URGENT ACTION NEEDED TO STOP FDA REGULATION OF TOBACCO

The federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is currently reviewing the Clinton Administration's proposed regulations on tobacco. This is technically known as the "comment period." The deadline for submitting comments about the proposed regulations is November 9.

FDA regulation of tobacco is the most serious threat to our industry and our jobs that we have seen in many years. If the FDA is given regulatory authority over tobacco products, then full-scale prohibition may follow.

Last year, many members wrote to the FDA about this issue. Once again, we are urging each member to write a personal letter to the FDA for the official record. These letters are more critical than ever. Our livelihoods are at stake.

Thank you for your assistance on this vital program.

POINTS TO INCLUDE IN YOUR LETTER

- Identify yourself. Give your name, job title, union, local and plant.
- State your opposition to FDA regulation of tobacco.
- Indicate that the proposed regulations and further restrictions which will certainly come down the road will cripple the industry and threaten your job.
- Explain the impact of FDA regulation on you and your family, livelihood and community.
- Describe your concerns with underage smoking but explain that regulating away good jobs is not the way to address the problem.
- Letters should be addressed to:

Dockers Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration, Room 1-23
12420 Parklawn Drive
Rockville, MD 20857

WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR LETTER

- Please return the letters to the union office or a steward. The local union will send the letters into the Food and Drug Administration. However, you must still put the address on your letter.

91715303

The Case Against FDA Regulation of Tobacco – An Overview

FDA Does Not have Jurisdiction Over Tobacco

- For more than 80 years, Congress expressly reserved authority to regulate cigarettes.
- FDA has consistently found no basis for regulating cigarettes. Courts have agreed.

Proposed FDA Regulations Would Trample the First Amendment

- The rule constitutes a *de facto* ban on tobacco ads and violates the First Amendment.

Tobacco is Highly Regulated

- At least a dozen federal agencies and every state exert controls over tobacco. It is one of the most highly regulated consumer products.
- In 1992, Congress passed the "Synar Amendment," which directs states to take responsibility for youth access. The Clinton Administration has not implemented the law.

FDA Cannot Handle Current Responsibilities

- FDA is failing in its core mission: to assure that safe and effective drugs, medical devices, and food are available to the American public.
- FDA has scattered its focus – a quest for power at the expense of medical needs.

FDA Proposals Would Not Reduce Youth Smoking

- There is no compelling evidence that anything which has been targeted for FDA's control causes or contributes to the problem of youth smoking.
- Long-term data shows overall youth smoking rates declining, while illicit drug use among teens is increasing at an alarming rate.
- International experience refutes the connection between advertising and the decision to start smoking.
- Cigarette manufacturers continue to offer real world solutions to concerns over youth smoking and cigarette advertising and promotion.

**Tobacco
Industry
Labor
Management
Committee**

**Am. Serv. Confectionery
Tobacco Workers
International Union**

September 25, 1995

TO: Paul Morris

FROM: Leslie Dawson
Harry Kaiser

**International
Association of
Chemists and
Aerospace Workers**

Thanks for agreeing to help with the Tobacco Industry Labor Management Committee's FDA letter-writing campaign.

**International
Brotherhood of Firemen
and Oilers**

As per our discussion, we have attached a sample draft letter for each local union to send on letterhead. We have also attached a background sheet for the members as they prepare their personal letters. Also included is a summary of the proposed FDA regulations.

The deadline for submitting letters to the FDA is November 9

**Int'l Metal Workers
International
Association**

As you receive the letters, please send copies to us as well as the FDA. We can be reached c/o The Tobacco Industry Labor Management Committee, 1901 L Street, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20036.

**United Brotherhood of
Carpenters and Joiners
America**

Harry will be in contact with you regarding visits to the plants. If you have any questions, please call Harry Kaiser (614/461-6547), Leslie Dawson (202/452-9457) or Jackie Hampel (202/452-9453). Thanks again.

Food & Drug Institute

**P.O. Box 45311
Washington, DC 20015**

91715305

Draft submissions from Machinists tobacco locals to FDA

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
Room 1-23
12420 Parklawn Drive
Rockville, MD 20857

RE: 95N-0253
(Regulations Restricting the Sale and Distribution of Cigarettes and Smokeless Tobacco Products)

On behalf of Machinists Local (local number), I am writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed regulation of tobacco products by the FDA.

The proposed regulations, taken in their entirety, will certainly lead to much more severe controls on the use of tobacco products by adults. They go right at the economic viability of the tobacco industry and in turn the livelihood of our members whose jobs depend on the industry.

What is most outrageous is that rarely in all of the debate over tobacco regulation is there ever a mention of the jobs of thousands of hard working men and women whose livelihoods depend on the tobacco industry. The excellent wages and benefits we earn enable us to provide for our families, send our children to college, care for our parents, grandparents and grandchildren.

Because of these wages and benefits, we bolster the standard of living and quality of life in our community. Tobacco industry workers will not be the only ones hurt by this attack on the tobacco industry. The people who work in the businesses we patronize--the restaurants, grocery stores, appliance shops, hairdressers and car dealers to name a few--will pay a high price as well for these misguided and punitive regulation.

Our union agrees that teen smoking is an important issue that should be addressed. But regulating away thousands of jobs is not the answer. States are already required by federal law to pass legislation restricting access of tobacco products to minors. Our union and the industry support these efforts.

Tobacco is a legal product produced by American workers and should continue to be treated as such. A percentage of American adults will choose to use tobacco products.

91715306

The real issue is whether the plants where tobacco products are made are in the United States or overseas.

The FDA should reject these proposals and utilize its already limited resources to provide the services to the American people for which the agency was created.

Sincerely,

91715307

URGENT ACTION NEEDED TO STOP FDA REGULATION OF TOBACCO

The federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is currently reviewing the Clinton Administration's proposed regulations on tobacco. This is technically known as the "comment period." The deadline for submitting comments about the proposed regulations is November 9.

FDA regulation of tobacco is the most serious threat to our industry and our jobs that we have seen in many years. If the FDA is given regulatory authority over tobacco products, then full-scale prohibition may follow.

We are urging each member to write a personal letter to the FDA for the official record. These letters are more critical than ever. Our livelihoods are at stake.

Thank you for your assistance on this vital program.

POINTS TO INCLUDE IN YOUR LETTER

- Identify yourself. Give your name, job title, union local and plant.
- State your opposition to FDA regulation of tobacco.
- Indicate that the proposed regulations and further restrictions which will certainly come down the road will cripple the industry and threaten your job.
- Explain the impact of FDA regulation on you and your family, livelihood and community.
- Describe your concerns with underage smoking but explain that regulating away good jobs is not the way to address the problem.
- Letters should be addressed to:

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration, Room 1-23
12420 Parklawn Dr
Rockville, MD 20857

WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR LETTER

- Please return the letters to the union office or a steward. The local union will send the letters into the Food and Drug Administration. However, you must still put the address on your letter.

91715308

The Case Against FDA Regulation of Tobacco -- An Overview

FDA Does Not Have Jurisdiction Over Tobacco

- For more than 80 years, Congress expressly reserved authority to regulate cigarettes.
- FDA has consistently found no basis for regulating cigarettes. Courts have agreed.

Proposed FDA Regulations Would Trample the First Amendment

- The rule constitutes a *de facto* ban on tobacco ads and violates the First Amendment.

Tobacco is Highly Regulated

- At least a dozen federal agencies and every state exert controls over tobacco. It is one of the most highly regulated consumer products.
- In 1992, Congress passed the "Synar Amendment," which directs states to take responsibility for youth access. The Clinton Administration has not implemented the law.

FDA Cannot Handle Current Responsibilities

- FDA is failing in its core mission: to assure that safe and effective drugs, medical devices, and food are available to the American public.
- FDA has scattered its focus -- a quest for power at the expense of medical needs.

FDA Proposals Would Not Reduce Youth Smoking

- There is no compelling evidence anything targeted for FDA's control causes or contributes to the problem of youth smoking.
- Long-term data show overall youth smoking rates declining, while illicit drug use among teens is increasing at an alarming rate.
- International experience refutes the connection between advertising and the decision to start smoking.
- Cigarette manufacturers continue to offer real world solutions to concerns over youth smoking and cigarette advertising and promotion.



KENTUCKY STATE AFL-CIO

340-1 DEMOCRAT DRIVE • FRANKFORT, KY 40601
502-695-6172 • 1-800-AFL-CIO-K • 502-695-6178 fax

September 25, 1995

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LISA WALLACE
Communications

DOBBA MARTIN
OBRA Accounts

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)

Food and Drug Administration

Room 1-23

12420 Parklawn Drive

Rockville, Maryland 20857

RE: 95N-0253 (Regulations Restricting the Sale and Distribution of Cigarettes and Smokeless Tobacco Products to protect Children and Adolescents)

On behalf of the Kentucky State AFL-CIO, which represents more than 100,000 working men and women throughout the state, I am writing to oppose the Food and Drug Administration's proposed regulation of tobacco products.

The Kentucky State AFL-CIO agrees that youth smoking must be addressed. We support reasonable efforts and effective measures to curb adolescent tobacco use. But regulating away thousands of American jobs is not the way to do it.

The Kentucky State AFL-CIO is opposed to FDA regulation of tobacco products because such regulations seriously jeopardize the jobs of thousands of men and women employed in the tobacco industry here in Kentucky. Many of these workers are members of local unions affiliated with this state federation and we care deeply about these brothers and sisters and their families.

Moreover, the tobacco industry is an extremely important part of the economy of this state. Tobacco workers earn decent wages and can provide for their families in the American middle class tradition. In addition, the benefits they earn mean that they can contribute to their communities rather than costing other Americans for health services and other needs. FDA regulation of tobacco resulting in the loss of these jobs would cripple the tax base of many of our cities and towns.

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We are also concerned that enforcing these regulations will force the FDA to stretch its already limited resources and deny the American public the critical services for which it was created.

At a time when our state is working hard to retain and attract high-wage jobs, we see efforts by Dr. Kessler and the FDA as economically counterproductive and dangerous. Tobacco is a legal product in this country and should continue to be treated as such.

The Kentucky State AFL-CIO appreciates your consideration of our position on this issue and respectfully urges your favorable action.

Sincerely,


Robert T. Curtis
President

91715311



NORTH CAROLINA STATE A.F.L.-C.I.O.

Post Office Box 10805
Raleigh, North Carolina 27605
Phone (919)833-8878

Christopher Scott
President

James Andrews
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IAFP

Ramon Lewis
UPWA

David Cox
AFGE

Elmore Harrison
UPCW

Stephen Dale
ICWU

John Saragga
UPRU

Spencer Greene
GMP

September 21, 1995

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
Room 1-23
12420 Parklawn Drive
Rockville, Maryland 20857

RE: 95N-0253

(Regulations Restricting the Sale and Distribution of
Cigarettes and Smokeless Tobacco Products to protect
Children and Adolescents)

On behalf of the North Carolina State AFL-CIO, which
represents more than 175,000 working men and women throughout
the state, I am writing to oppose the Food and Drug
Administration's proposed regulation of tobacco products.

The North Carolina State AFL-CIO agrees that youth
smoking must be addressed. We support reasonable efforts
and effective measures to curb adolescent tobacco use. But
regulating away thousands of American jobs is not the way to
do it.

The North Carolina State AFL-CIO is opposed to FDA
regulation of tobacco products because such regulations
seriously jeopardize the jobs of thousands of men and women
employed in the tobacco industry here in North Carolina.
Many of these workers are members of local unions affiliated
with this state federation and we care deeply about these
brothers and sisters and their families.

Moreover, the tobacco industry is an extremely important
part of the economy of this state. Tobacco workers earn
decent wages and can provide for their families in the
American middle class tradition. In addition, the benefits
they earn mean that they can contribute to their communities
rather than costing other Americans for health services and
other needs. Many of these jobs, in both leaf processing and
manufacturing are held by women and persons of color - both

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of whom experience a significant wage gap in this state. FDA regulation of tobacco resulting in the loss of these jobs would cripple the tax base of many of our cities and towns.

We are also concerned that enforcing these regulations will force the FDA to stretch its already limited resources and deny the American public the critical services for which it was created.

At a time when our state is working hard to retain and attract high-wage jobs, we see efforts by Dr. Kessler and the FDA as economically counterproductive and dangerous. Tobacco is a legal product in this country and should continue to be treated as such.

The North Carolina State AFL-CIO appreciates your consideration of our position on this issue and respectfully urges your favorable action.

Sincerely,

Christopher Scott
President

CC: BC&TWIC Members
IAM 108 Members

CS/aj

91715313

Georgia

STATE AFL-CIO

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS
HERBERT H. MABRY
PRESIDENT
RICHARD RAY
SECRETARY-TREASURER
RON NABTY
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT



September 29, 1995

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
Room 1-23
12420 Parklawn Drive
Rockville, Maryland 20857

RE: 95N-0253

(Regulations Restricting the Sale and Distribution of Cigarettes
and Smokeless Tobacco Products to protect Children and Adolescents)

On behalf of the Georgia State AFL-CIO, which represents more than 350,000 working men and women throughout the state, I am writing to oppose the Food and Drug Administration's proposed regulation of tobacco products.

The Georgia State AFL-CIO agrees that youth smoking must be addressed. We support reasonable efforts and effective measures to curb adolescent tobacco use. But regulating away thousands of American jobs is not the way to do it.

The Georgia State AFL-CIO is opposed to FDA regulation of tobacco products because such regulations seriously jeopardize the jobs of thousands of men and women employed in the tobacco industry here in Georgia. Many of these workers are members of local unions affiliated with this state federation and we care deeply about these brothers and sisters and their families.

Moreover, the tobacco industry is an extremely important part of the economy of this state. Tobacco workers earn decent wages and can provide for their families in the American middle class tradition. In addition, the benefits they earn mean that they can contribute to their communities rather than costing other Americans for health services and other needs. FDA regulation of tobacco resulting in the loss of these jobs would cripple the tax base of many of our cities and towns.

We are also concerned that enforcing these regulations will force the FDA to stretch its already limited resources and deny the American public the critical services for which it was created.

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DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENTS: WALTER DART, DISTRICT 1 — LINDA RAY, DISTRICT 2 — GENE ROBERTS, DISTRICT 3 — WALTER CLEVELAND, DISTRICT 4 — WALTER ANDREWS, DISTRICT 5 — DOYLE HOWARD, DISTRICT 6 — GEORGE BULLOCH, DISTRICT 7 — JOE PHILLIPS, DISTRICT 8 — BARBARA FOSTER, DISTRICT 9 — CHARLIE BARNEY, DISTRICT 10 — WARREN HILLS, DISTRICT 11 — COUNSEL: HARRY BEXLEY

Georgia

STATE AFL-CIO

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS
HERBERT H. MABRY
PRESIDENT
RICHARD RAY
SECRETARY-TREASURER
RON NABTY
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT



At a time when our state is working hard to retain and attract high-wage jobs, we see efforts by Dr. Kessler and FDA as economically counterproductive and dangerous. Tobacco is a legal product in this country and should continue to be treated as such.

The Georgia State AFL-CIO appreciates your consideration of our position on this issue and respectfully urges your favorable action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Herbert H. Mabry'.

Herbert H. Mabry, President
Georgia State AFL-CIO

HHL:dw
opelu 11
afl-cio

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DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENTS: WALTER DART, DISTRICT 1 — LINDA RAY, DISTRICT 2 — GENE ROBERTS, DISTRICT 3 — WALTER CLEVELAND, DISTRICT 4 — WALTER ANDREWS, DISTRICT 5 — DOYLE HOWARD, DISTRICT 6 — GEORGE BULLOCK, DISTRICT 7 — JOE PHILLIPS, DISTRICT 8 — BARBARA FOSTER, DISTRICT 9 — CHARLIE BARNEY, DISTRICT 10 — WARREN HILLS, DISTRICT 11 —
COUNSEL: HARRY BELEY

Electric Plaza Building • Suite 549 • 501 William Street, S.W. • Atlanta, Georgia 30332 • 404-525-5555 • Telex 555 5555

Bakery, Confectionery and Tobacco Workers International Union

10401 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, KENSINGTON, MARYLAND 20895-3961
TELEPHONE (301) 933-8600 FAX (301) 946-8452

FRANK HURT
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

October 2, 1995

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
room 1-23
12420 Parklawn Drive
Rockville, MD 20857

RE: 95N-0253
(Regulations Restricting the Sale and Distribution of Cigarettes and Smokeless
Tobacco Products)

I am writing in opposition to President Clinton's proposed plan to give the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) the power to regulate tobacco products. Guised as protecting America's youth, the President's plan is actually an attempt to ban cigarettes in general. The FDA wants the power to regulate all tobacco products as a drug and the President's plan is just the first step toward reaching that goal.

The proposed rules to protect America's youth from the tobacco industry will not end teen smoking. Their real purpose is to begin the march toward prohibition. The rules may, in fact, lead to a new "drug underground." Youths find ways to attain cigarettes illegally now; new regulations will simply lead to new, more dangerous methods of buying cigarettes. Acquiring cigarettes illegally will not only cause more crime, it will also result in less tax dollars coming from legal cigarette purchases.

The fact is that these regulations do not work. Canada has attempted unsuccessfully to curb teen smoking with a similar policy. Faced with similar failure and free of legislative restraint, FDA's plan will lead to even tighter restrictions and the eventual demise of the tobacco industry as a whole. These are the hidden goals of the proposed regulations.

If enacted, the Administration's proposal will throw thousands of Americans out of work. According to your own estimates, at least 10,000 American jobs will be eliminated. However, I believe the real number will be much higher. Not only will jobs directly related to the tobacco industry be lost, so will countless other jobs which are indirectly dependent upon tobacco. Restaurants, bars, convenience stores, gas stations, and transportation and candy distribution companies are just some of the businesses which will suffer significant job losses.

The tobacco industry is a vital part of the economy of the southeastern United States and has a significant impact throughout the country. Tobacco workers earn a good living and can provide for their families, two traditions of the American middle class. The jobs produce an essential economic contribution to communities nationwide and generate billions of dollars in tax revenues at the local, state and national level. FDA regulations on the industry will turn productive workers and families into welfare recipients. The impact of the job loss hits especially hard on

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women and minorities because of their high level of employment in the tobacco industry. The plan will also cripple the tax base of most Southeastern cities and states which will force localities to cut the level of services delivered to the taxpaying public.

These new regulations will only hurt American workers while failing to achieve their alleged goals or dealing directly with the problem of teenage smoking. Legislation to deal with the problem of teen smoking was approved in 1992, but has not been enforced. There is no need to another layer of bureaucracy; additional, unnecessary regulations. Implementation of existing laws approved by Congress is what is required now.

There are ways to address teenage smoking. The tobacco companies already have in place extensive advertising and educational programs. In fact, they are currently taking significant steps to guard against minors having access to their products. They have offered to do more. Most Americans agree with this approach. A recent news report by the Associated Press said that "most Americans oppose some of President Clinton's aggressive efforts to shield teenagers from tobacco advertising and promotion."

It is Congress' job to regulate tobacco and it has repeatedly denied the FDA any additional authority over tobacco regulations. The FDA will not only be reaching beyond its jurisdiction, it will also be stretching its already limited resources and denying the American public the services for which it was created. The FDA's current responsibilities include: approving the use of desperately needed new drugs in the United States; assuring the safety and effectiveness of drugs, medical devices and cosmetics; safeguarding the food supply; and overseeing the nation's blood supply and vaccines. The capability of the FDA to provide these essential services is called into question regularly.

Unable to meet its core responsibilities, the FDA is wasting time attempting to expand its scope of authority.

The addition of another major responsibility, such as tobacco regulation, will only slow down the already sluggish rate of FDA action. It now takes twice as long for a new drug to be approved in the United States as it did in the 1970's. And Former Chief FDA Investigator, Jim Phillips, states in July, "I can't comprehend how Dr. Kessler will find resources to enforce any tobacco restrictions when he doesn't have enough field investigators at present to properly inspect foreign drug products entering this country."

The problem of teen smoking warrants serious attention and a broad public debate may identify additional ways to curb adolescent tobacco use. But FDA's proposed rules are not the way to do it. Government should encourage employment, not destroy it. If the attack on the tobacco industry continues, you will see high wage and benefit jobs move overseas. The steps outlined by the President go well beyond curbing teenage smoking. They aim directly at the economic viability of several industries and in turn, American jobs.

Sincerely,

Frank Hurt
International President

FH/CJ:kfw

91715317

Oct 3, 95

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 27, 1995

Mr. Charlie Williams
State Council of Senior Citizens
Suite A-200
8626-B West Greenfield Avenue
West Allis, Wisconsin 53214

Dear Charlie:

Thank you for your message regarding our effort to limit children's access to tobacco products. I have heard from many concerned people on this issue, and I appreciate your input as we work to protect the health of young Americans.

Adults are capable of making their own decisions about smoking. Overwhelming evidence shows, however, that children are particularly susceptible to tobacco marketing. Some 3,000 boys and girls take up smoking every day, and millions will ultimately lose their lives to it. If we are to ensure a healthy future for our children, we must act now to stop them from smoking.

I have therefore authorized the Food and Drug Administration to propose rules to limit minors' access to tobacco as well as the promotion and advertising that enhance the appeal of tobacco products among young people. Under the proposed regulations:

- o tobacco purchasers will be required to prove their age with identification;
- o cigarette vending machines, which effectively circumvent any ban on sales to children, will be prohibited;
- o outdoor advertising for tobacco products will not be allowed within 1,000 feet of schools or playgrounds, and outdoor advertising outside the 1,000-foot limit will be restricted to a text-only, black and white format;
- o publications with significant youth readership will be permitted to advertise tobacco products solely in a text-only, black and white format; and
- o the tobacco industry will fund an annual campaign to teach children about the dangers of tobacco use.

These proposals do not constitute a ban on smoking or a threat to the First Amendment. Rather, they are commonsense steps that will help us forge a better future for our children. I appreciate knowing your views on this issue, and I hope you will work with us as we seek to create a healthier America.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

91715318



Wisconsin State Council of Senior Citizens, Inc.

82225 West Greenfield Ave. • Suite A-100

West Allis, Wisconsin 53214

(414) 443-0080 • Fax (414) 443-0082



August 2, 1993

President Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As President of the Wisconsin State Council of Senior Citizens I am writing to respectfully express our opposition to Food and Drug administration regulation of tobacco products.

The concern we have is that such a regulation, if imposed, will have a devastating effect on an industry that is highly unionized with excellent wage and benefit standards. This Senior Council is made up of mostly retired Union members.

In addition to our concerns about our union brothers and sisters working in the industry, we are just as concerned if the FDA is allowed to impose its regulation, it could adversely affect friendly candidates of the Administration in tight races especially in the South. That is crucial to us if we are to reverse the anti senior, anti worker policies coming out of the Republican Congress.

The Wisconsin State Council of Senior Citizens appreciates your consideration of our concerns on this issue.

Sincerely yours,

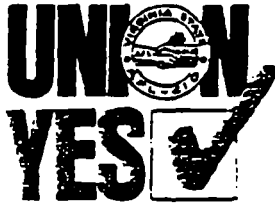
Charlie Williams
State President

Affiliated with the National Council of Senior Citizens • Washington, D.C.

91715319

VIRGINIA STATE AFL-CIO

Chartered by the
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND
CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS



DANIEL G. LeBLANC JAMES R. LEAMAN
President Secretary-Treasurer
RUSSELL N. AXSOM
Vice-President
Representing over 200,000 Members

October 12, 1995

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
12420 Parklawn Drive, Room 1-23
Rockville, Maryland 20857

RE: 95N-0253 (Regulations Restricting Sale and Distribution of
Cigarettes and Smokeless Tobacco Products to Protect
Children and Adolescents)

On behalf of the Virginia State AFL-CIO, which represents more than 200,000 working men and women throughout the state, I am writing to oppose the Food and Drug Administration's proposed regulation of tobacco products.

The Virginia State AFL-CIO agrees that youth smoking must be addressed. We support reasonable efforts and effective measures to curb adolescent tobacco use. But regulating away thousands of American jobs is not the way to do it.

The Virginia State AFL-CIO is opposed to FDA regulation of tobacco products because such regulations seriously jeopardize the jobs of thousands of men and women employed in the tobacco industry here in Virginia. Many of these workers are members of local unions affiliated with this state federation and we care deeply about these brothers and sisters and their families.

Moreover, the tobacco industry is an extremely important part of the economy of this state. Tobacco workers earn decent wages and can provide for their families in the American middle class tradition. In addition, the benefits they earn mean that they can contribute to their communities rather than costing other Americans for health services and other needs. FDA regulation of tobacco resulting in the loss of these jobs would cripple the tax base of many of our cities and towns.

We are also concerned that enforcing these regulations will force the FDA to stretch its already limited resources and deny the American public the critical services for which it was created.

FAX (804) 353-0442
Phone: (804) 355-7444

3315 WEST BROAD STREET
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23220-1100

91715320

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
October 12, 1995
Page 2

At a time when our state is working hard to retain and attract high-wage jobs, we see efforts by Dr. Kessler and the FDA as economically counter-productive and dangerous. Tobacco is a legal product in this country and should continue to be treated as such.

The Virginia State AFL-CIO appreciates your consideration of our position on this issue and respectfully urges your favorable action.

Sincerely,



Daniel C. LeBlanc
President

DGL:csj
c Jerry Sprouse
Barry Baker
Steve Spain
OPEIU 334, AFL-CIO

91715321