



June 4, 2004

«Name»
«Chamber»
«Street»
«CityStateZip»
Fax: «Fax»

Dear «Salutation»:

Our organizations are strongly opposed to adding a buyout of tobacco quota holders and growers to the Foreign Sales Corporation/Extraterritorial Income Tax (FSC/ETI) legislation. This special provision would ultimately benefit tobacco companies.

Putting this highly controversial buyout proposal in the FSC/ETI legislation unnecessarily complicates this legislation and avoids dealing with what should be the first priority of Congress when it comes to tobacco policy: protecting the public health. Just days ago, the Surgeon General has reported to the nation that smoking is even more harmful than we thought. Congress' response should not be to pass a tobacco quota buyout that does nothing to improve the health of the public.

For decades, the tobacco companies have marketed their deadly products to our children, deceived consumers about the harm their products cause, and failed to take any meaningful action to make their products less harmful or less addictive. Although this buyout proposal is presented as benefiting tobacco growers, in reality it is a special interest provision for the tobacco industry. Taxpayers are left holding the bag for this buyout that reportedly will be funded by continuing expiring customs fees. It is troubling that some in Congress would contemplate acting to protect the interests of the tobacco industry instead of acting to protect the public health.

We ask that you strongly oppose any tobacco provisions in this bill and encourage your colleagues to do the same.

Sincerely,

Action on Smoking & Health
American Academy of Family Physicians
American College of Chest Physicians
American Heart Association
American Medical Women's Association
American Public Health Association
American Society of Addiction Medicine
American Thoracic Society
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)/Drug-Free Kids Campaign
General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church
Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America
National Association of Local Boards of Health
National Center for Policy Research for Women & Families
Society for Public Health Education