

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 24, 2005

Honorable Alberto Gonzales
U.S. Attorney General
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Gonzales:

In light of recent developments in the lawsuit the Department of Justice is prosecuting against the major tobacco companies, we request a meeting with you to discuss the Department's recent handling of the government's case.

We are concerned that the Department's apparent intention to seek \$10 billion in remedies for smoking cessation is woefully inadequate to meet the needs of the 45 million Americans who currently smoke and those who will become addicted in the future due to the companies' ongoing efforts to obtain new consumers of their deadly products. We are aware of the Department's statement that a restricted remedy is called for under the February 4, 2005, decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, but are mystified by this sudden and extreme interpretation of that decision.

Today, 45 million lives are at stake in this process. Forty-five million Americans are using tobacco products despite what we now know -- tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death and disease in this country. The purpose of the government's lawsuit is to hold accountable the corporate entities that deceived and misled the American people about the addictive nature of tobacco products and the health risks associated with using them.

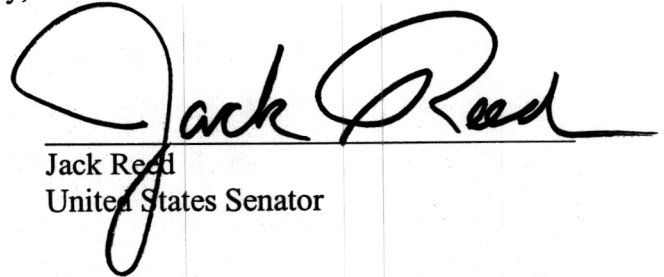
We are concerned that the Department may be willing to settle for insufficient remedies. We are dismayed at the prospect that the lives of these American people may be compromised by a legal strategy influenced by political pressure.

It is our hope to discuss with you the Department's recent handling of the case, the perception of inappropriate influence on the attorneys leading the case and the circumstances surrounding the talk of an early settlement. We look forward to meeting with you as soon as practicable.

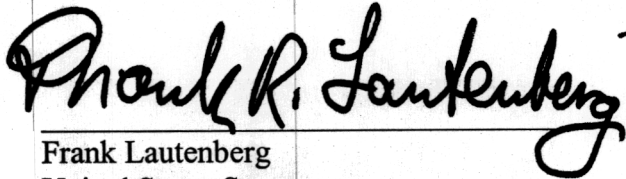
Sincerely,



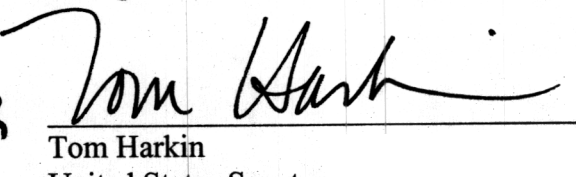
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



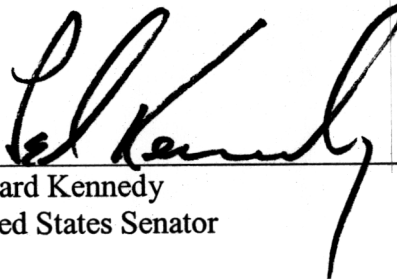
Jack Reed
United States Senator



Frank Lautenberg
United States Senator



Tom Harkin
United States Senator



Edward Kennedy
United States Senator