



July 17, 2009

Mary H. Partridge
Chair

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

H. James Gooden
Chair-elect

The Honorable Lloyd Doggett
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Stephen J. Nolan, Esq.
Past-Chair

Christine L. Bryant
Secretary/Treasurer

Dear Congressman Van Hollen and Congressman Doggett:

Gwendolyn W. Young
Nationwide Assembly Speaker

The American Lung Association is pleased to write you today in support of The Public Health Trade Advisory Committee Act (HR 2293). We applaud the introduction of this legislation, which for the first time will require representatives of the public health community to be included in discussions about trade policy and specific trade agreements.

Arthur A. Cerullo, JD
Nationwide Assembly Speaker-Elect

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Charles D. Connor
President &
Chief Executive Officer

The Government Accountability Office has noted that while trade agreements can often affect health laws in the United States, the Trade Advisory Committee System does not receive advice or recommendations from anyone in the public health community. This legislation remedies that situation, establishing a Public Health Advisory Committee on Trade with members who have an expertise in many different areas such as tobacco control.

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The Public Health Trade Advisory Committee Act also takes steps to ensure that not only is the public health community given a voice where trade policy and agreements are concerned, but makes certain that voice is heard. By requiring the United States Trade Representative to consult with the advisory committees throughout the negotiating process and respond to their concerns, the perspective of the public health community will play an effective role in the formulation of trade policy of the United States.

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The Lung Association looks forward to working with you to see the successful passage and implementation of the Public Health Trade Advisory Committee Act.

Sincerely,

Charles D. Connor
President and CEO