



May 5, 2014

The Honorable Mark Pryor
Chair
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration, and Related
Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration, and Related
Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration, and Related
Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Farr
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration, and Related
Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Pryor and Aderholt and Ranking Members Blunt and Farr:

As your respective Subcommittees move forward with the FY 2015 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies appropriations bills, we urge you to approve the authorized level of user fees for the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) oversight of tobacco products and to oppose any effort to limit the authority that Congress granted the FDA under the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act (Tobacco Control Act).

Prior to 2009, tobacco products were virtually unregulated even though they were known to be highly addictive and dangerous to health. Congress, on a bipartisan basis, recognized that tobacco products should be overseen by an agency with expertise in assessing health risks and experience promulgating science-based regulation. The Tobacco Control Act gave FDA authority to regulate the manufacture, marketing, distribution and sale of tobacco products in a manner appropriate for the protection of public health.

We appreciate that every FDA appropriations bill approved by Congress since the enactment of the Tobacco Control Act has contained the full authorized amount of user fees and has not included language that would restrict FDA's authority to oversee tobacco products. This year, we urge your Subcommittees to approve the \$566 million in user fees that the Tobacco Control Act authorizes FDA to collect and spend for tobacco-related activities for FY 2015. With the enactment of the Tobacco Control Act, Congress recognized that determining the appropriate level of oversight of different tobacco products is best achieved by FDA using a science-based process. We also urge that the Subcommittees not restrict FDA's authority under the Tobacco Control Act, including its authority to oversee all tobacco products.

Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States and is responsible for more than \$130 billion in health care costs every year. One in four heart disease deaths, nearly one in three cancer deaths, and eight in ten deaths from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) are caused by tobacco use, and more than 16 million Americans are living with a tobacco-caused disease. With the support of your Subcommittees, the Tobacco Control Act will help reduce tobacco use and the health and economic toll it takes on the nation.

Sincerely,



Christopher W. Hansen
President
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network



Nancy A. Brown
Chief Executive Officer
American Heart Association



Harold Wimmer
National President and CEO
American Lung Association



Matthew L. Myers
President
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids

Cc: Members of the Senate and House Subcommittees on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies