



The Right Honorable Bamdev Gautam
Deputy Prime Minister, and Home Minister
Government of Nepal
Singha Durbar
Kathmandu, Nepal

March 23, 2015

Dear Honorable Minister,

As United States based public health organizations dedicated to ending the tobacco epidemic we write to express our strong support for Nepal's right to implement 90% graphic health warnings on tobacco packs. Specifically, we are responding to the January 28, 2015 letter sent to you by the US Chamber of Commerce challenging Nepal's policy.

The US Chamber of Commerce's letter continues a long history of abuse of trade and investment agreements by the tobacco industry and its allies to threaten countries over lawfully adopted non-discriminatory tobacco control policies. Nepal joins an illustrious list of countries who have received such letters from the tobacco industry or its allies, like the US Chamber of Commerce, over packaging and labeling measures, including Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, and Uruguay, among many others.

We understand that in addition to the letter, the US Chamber of Commerce joined British American Tobacco and Philip Morris International in a meeting with the Ministry of Health to push for the policy to be withdrawn. Importantly, the US Chamber of Commerce is not an unbiased organization on these issues, but rather a thinly veiled cloak for the tobacco industry. Indeed, Altria (the US parent company of Philip Morris USA) sits on the board of the US Chamber of Commerce.

Given the tobacco industry's ongoing abuse of trade agreements to threaten and bully governments globally, we want you to know that the US Chamber of Commerce does not speak for the American public, our nation's public health leaders, or our Government. We also want you to know that we and our partners in the American public health community stand with you in your effort to protect the people of Nepal from the deadly harms of tobacco use.

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