



May 31, 2011

Honorable Harold Rodgers
 Chair
 Committee on Appropriations
 United States House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Norman Dicks
 Ranking Member
 Committee on Appropriations
 United States House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rodgers and Ranking Member Dicks:

We are writing to express our strong opposition to any legislative or report language, riders, or amendments that the House Appropriations Committee might consider during mark up of the FY 2012 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies appropriations bill that would weaken the Food and Drug Administration's authority over tobacco products. After more than a decade of careful and thorough consideration, Congress in 2009 approved the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act (FSPTCA) with strong, bipartisan support to protect America's children and the nation's health by putting in place common sense standards to regulate the tobacco industry. The FSPTCA will help reduce the devastating health and economic toll of tobacco use on the nation and should not be weakened.

We are especially concerned about any attempt to weaken the authority of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to restrict tobacco marketing or require changes in tobacco products, such as the reduction or removal of ingredients. We also oppose any attempt to limit the type of scientific evidence the FDA can consider or the setting of a higher standard of proof that the FDA must meet before taking action, such as the removal of substances that result in an increase in the use of tobacco products.

The FSPTCA was carefully crafted to protect the health of both current tobacco users and those that do not currently use tobacco products, especially children, and we urge the Committee to not limit the FDA's authority. Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States, killing more than 400,000 Americans and costing the nation \$96 billion in health care expenses each year. The FSPTCA provided the FDA with the tools necessary to regulate tobacco products, and we urge you to oppose any language that would impede the FDA's ability to protect public health. To do otherwise would only serve the interests of the tobacco industry to the detriment of the health of the nation.

Sincerely,

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery
American Association for Cancer Research
American Association for Respiratory Care
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Association
American Medical Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society of Preventive Oncology
American Thoracic Society
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church
LIVESTRONG
Lung Cancer Alliance
National Association of Local Boards of Health
Oral Health America
Partnership for Prevention