



Michael E. Szymanczyk
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

June 12, 2009

The President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of Altria Group, Inc. and its tobacco operating companies (including Philip Morris USA Inc., U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company LLC, and John Middleton Co.), I write to express our support for H.R. 1256, the *Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act*, which has passed Congress and will shortly be presented to you for signature. We applaud this important and historic legislative achievement.

Altria Group today consists of businesses in each of the major segments of the tobacco industry. Our businesses together employ thousands of hard working and dedicated men and women throughout the United States and do business with thousands of suppliers, growers, wholesalers, and retailers – each of whom has an interest in this important legislation and in how it is implemented.

We have participated constructively in the legislative process over the more than eight years this legislation has progressed. We have consistently advocated for a tough but reasonable approach to federal regulation that recognizes the serious harm caused by tobacco products, that helps ensure tobacco companies do not market tobacco products to children, and that also acknowledges that tobacco products are and should remain legal products for adults. We have demonstrated our support for the process and for the legislation in a variety of ways – by submitting testimony in support of this legislation, by visiting with Members to express our views, and by offering our expertise and knowledge of this industry as Congress developed and moved this legislation forward.

While we do not agree with every element or detail of this lengthy legislation – including those that we believe cross constitutional limits – we support its enactment. We are hopeful that these issues will be addressed as part of an ongoing collaborative process.

We believe this comprehensive national regulatory framework, implemented thoughtfully, can provide significant benefits to adult consumers by, among other things:

- establishing a common set of high standards for all tobacco manufacturers and importers doing business in the U.S.;
- providing a framework for the evaluation of tobacco products that are potentially less harmful than conventional cigarettes;
- creating clear principles for accurate and scientifically grounded communication about tobacco products to adult consumers.

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Moving forward, it is our strong hope that upon enactment the Food and Drug Administration will promptly implement this new regulatory framework consistent with these principles. We intend to work constructively with the agency in a way that enables the FDA to benefit from our experience, knowledge and expertise, and one that respects the many stakeholders that our companies represent.

We recognize that tobacco products have been the source of considerable conflict and controversy over many years. The enactment of H.R. 1256 will be a major public policy milestone – one that can help all stakeholders on this issue move beyond these conflicts to a regulatory system that offers real and practical solutions.

We thank you for your leadership on this important matter of public policy.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Sproul". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.