

Michael E. Szymanczyk's letter to the sponsors of the FDA legislation:

We at Philip Morris USA welcome the introduction of your bipartisan legislation to give the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authority to regulate tobacco products and commend you for your tireless effort to address the complex policy issues involving tobacco products.

Philip Morris USA remains committed to passage of comprehensive, meaningful and effective FDA regulation of tobacco products. Your legislation creates a uniform set of federal standards for the manufacture and marketing of all tobacco products. In addition, regulation will provide clear guidelines and oversight of products that could potentially reduce the harm caused by tobacco use.

This legislation will deliver its greatest benefits to tobacco consumers by providing a new framework within which manufacturers can focus on reducing the harm of their products. As in any industry, the companies that do the best job of exceeding their consumers' expectations, while meeting regulatory standards, will also achieve the best business results. However, we think the consumer will be and should be the primary beneficiary from FDA regulation.

We support this bill in its entirety. This thoughtful legislative approach offers the best way to advance real solutions concerning tobacco-related issues.

Key legislative provisions, among many, include:

- Regulation of nicotine by the FDA. The FDA would have authority to reduce nicotine yields and to reduce or eliminate harmful smoke constituents or harmful components of tobacco products;
- Authority for the FDA to regulate descriptors such as “light” and “low tar;”
- Changing the language of the current cigarette and smokeless tobacco product health warnings, enlarging their size and granting FDA authority to require new warnings in the future;
- Full disclosure of ingredients added to tobacco products;
- Authority for the FDA to require ingredient testing and to remove harmful ingredients;
- Authority for the FDA to do more to prevent minors from using tobacco products;
- Authority to establish standards for products that could potentially reduce the harm caused by tobacco products and to define the appropriate ways to communicate about these products; and
- A ban on the sale of candy and fruit-flavored cigarettes.

We thank you for your leadership role in this important initiative and we stand ready to assist you in developing further support for this legislation.

Michael E. Szymanczyk
Chairman and CEO
Philip Morris USA
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