

Californians Against Unfair Tax Increases

TOBACCO TAX INITIATIVE

TOBACCO COMPANY STATEMENT

California's major anti-tobacco organizations, an environmental policy group, education organizations and two state legislators have formed the "Coalition for a Healthy California" to promote the Tobacco Tax Initiative. Sponsors are now circulating petitions in an effort to qualify the constitutional amendment for the November 1988 state ballot.

The proposition would increase California's tobacco excise tax from the current 10 cents per pack of cigarettes to 35 cents per pack. It also would impose a new tax on all other tobacco products "equivalent" to the 35 cents per pack cigarette tax. According to the California Legislative Analyst, the new tax would raise approximately \$650 million a year, to be divided among several beneficiary sponsoring organizations, primarily the health care industry.

The principal group opposing the tax initiative is Californians Against Unfair Tax Increases. The California-based spokesman for that group, who is most familiar with this very complex change in California tax law, is Jeff Raimundo. He can be reached at 916-448-8507. Please feel free to contact him for more details.

We also urge you to take a closer look at the proposition. We believe that as you learn of its deceptive provisions, its system of rewards for initiative sponsors, its regressive impact on working class Californians and its questionable medical and social consequences, you will see that the initiative is not the unselfish, health-motivated reform its sponsors would like you to believe.

Californians Against Unfair Tax Increases.
A Committee Sponsored by the Tobacco Industry

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