

# Executive Summary



From  
The  
Tobacco  
Institute

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## IN THE STATES

\* A five-cent cigarette tax increase has passed both houses of the **Nevada** legislature. The law, however, contains a provision to "sunset" the increase in two years. The new 20-cent rate would be effective July 1 but would not apply to floor stocks.

\* As a result of the efforts of TI staff, the outdoor advertising association, and ETS and ventilation experts, the **U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM)** adopted a weakened, but still tough, anti-tobacco resolution that calls for sampling bans and designated smoking/nonsmoking areas in both public and private workplaces, restaurants and elsewhere, and discourages vending-machine sales of cigarettes and tobacco advertising.

Originally, the resolution called for smoking bans in government worksites, private workplaces and airlines, for tougher restaurant restrictions, for ad and vending bans, for a doubling of the federal excise tax, for increases in the tax on other tobacco products, and for complete USCM disassociation from all tobacco-related companies.

TI successfully teamed up with outdoor advertisers community to defeat another resolution, withdrawn without discussion in committee, calling for the elimination of all billboard advertising.

\* TI staff and legislative counsel were on hand to make sure the **Missouri** legislature adjourned June 16 without the House acting on an 8-cent cigarette hike, a new tax on other tobacco products or a broad smoking restriction measure.

\* The Public Works Committee of the **Washington, D.C.**, City Council will hear testimony next week on a bill to restrict smoking in workplaces, restaurants and other public places. Minority business owners, restaurateurs, economic, scientific and ventilation experts, and the DC Board of Trade are among the dozen-plus witnesses TI has helped identify to speak in opposition to the bill. In addition, a TI-organized letter-writing campaign has been underway all month.

## IN OTHER MATTERS

\* The Tobacco Industry Labor Management Committee (LMC) will host a reception Thursday, June 25, in Washington, D.C., to introduce LMC-sponsored materials on indoor air quality and excise taxes to AFL-CIO International union presidents and legislative, research and OSHA directors. Materials include a labor guide to collective bargaining on workplace smoking issues, an indoor air quality videotape featuring ventilation consultant Gray Robertson and Sheet Metal Workers Union President Edward Carlough, and an excise tax video featuring Bakery, Confectionery & Tobacco Workers Secretary-Treasurer Rene Rondou.

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\* Gray Robertson this week completed a round of media visits in Washington, D.C., including interviews with Newsweek health reporter Mary Hager and with Karen DeWitt of USA Today for a "Money" section cover story.

\* TI has tentatively scheduled a June 30 news conference in Dallas to release the results (which we reported last week) of the Portable Air Sampling System (PASS) survey of ETS that city's restaurants and workplaces.

\* TI will be monitoring comments submitted to the Department of Transportation in response to its new airline rulemaking addressing legislative and consumer service concerns and disclosure issues. Although smoking is not mentioned in the proposed rule, this first consumer-oriented regulatory action since the sunset of the Civil Aeronautics Board may result in efforts by anti-smoking groups to enlarge the scope of the proceeding.

\* "If you could add one amendment to the Constitution, what would it be?" In response to this New Republic question, noted Washington writer and journalist Henry Fairlie wrote:

"Riders should be added to the First Amendment explicitly protecting the right of smokers to assemble in public, and to the Seventh Amendment explicitly declaring bans on smoking to be cruel and unusual punishment."

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