

Draft

## *New York's State Legislature Set To Raise Excise Taxes*

*... Possibly as early as TODAY!*

Governor Pataki has proposed a 39-cent per pack increase in the state cigarette excise tax to finance salary increases for state health care workers. This is in addition to the current state cigarette excise tax, which was nearly doubled two years ago, also to support health care. If passed, this new proposal would make New York's tax the highest in the nation and more than three times the national average.

Increasing the state cigarette excise tax would impact not only your business, but your customers as well.

Now is the time to let Governor Pataki know that you are opposed to increasing the state cigarette excise tax again!

- In 2000, the New York State excise tax increased from 56 cents to \$1.11 per pack. Now the Governor wants to raise it to \$1.50 – the highest in the nation. That would be a 168% increase in two years!
- Nearly half of the cost of a pack of cigarettes already goes to the government.
- Raising taxes during a recession is bad economic policy and can jeopardize an economic recovery.
- If cigarette sales go down, so does the state's revenue. This is an unreliable source of funding for the state's budget.

Take a stand today! To contact Governor Pataki you may call **518-474-8390**.

***Increasing the state cigarette excise tax is bad for New York!***

**MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD TODAY!**

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