

March 21, 1988

Telecopy to Brozek ✓

*Any immediate
help here on
the other issue in
MN?*

Bill G.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Michael Brozek

FROM: Jeffrey Ross *JDR*
Carol Hrycaj *CH*

RE: Minnesota Excise Tax Coalition Activities

Since our last report, we have made considerable progress implementing our plan to cultivate long term excise tax coalitions in Minnesota. Recent activities include the following.

o Wes Lane has been retained as the Tobacco Industry Labor Management Committee's Minnesota labor counsel to work on excise and indoor air quality issues. Lane has been briefed on Labor Management Committee activities and the components of the Minnesota program. Lane will be instrumental in cultivating labor support on our issues.

o Citizens for Tax Justice has just completed its latest study on state sales and excise taxes. The report, scheduled for release this week, concludes excise taxes are "overwhelmingly and shockingly" regressive. Minnesota promotion activities include a state specific video news release and mailing to top press.

o We met with Wayne Cox, Minnesota Citizens for Tax Justice, to discuss activities to elevate awareness of the tax fairness issue in the state. Potential activities include preparation of a Minnesota tax study and conducting a tax fairness conference. Cox has requested Labor Management Committee grant support to undertake these projects. We are requesting approval to proceed.

o As you know, a survey demonstrating the effect of Minnesota's excise tax on border sales has been completed. We will discuss utilization of results and potential promotion opportunities at our meeting next month. Final payment for the survey has been approved (check attached).

o We have met with several Hispanic and Asian-American groups to explore excise tax coalition opportunities. These include: Council of Asian-Pacific Minnesotans; Concord Street Business Development Corporation; Centro Cultural Chicano; Organization of Chinese Americans; and, Spanish-Speaking Affairs Council. We will develop specific recommendations for each group.

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o We have met with the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Minnesota Business Partnership to discuss coalition opportunities focusing on the competitiveness argument. Both groups expressed interest in working with us. We will develop specific plans over the next few weeks.

o We have targeted several national and Minnesota-based veterans' groups for coalition development. We are developing specific recommendations for each.

o We met with Corporation for Enterprise Development, an organization that evaluates the economic climate of the states, to discuss Minnesota coalition development opportunities. CfED is preparing recommendations.

o The American Agriculture Movement has agreed to provide assistance with op-eds, letters and written testimony as needed. We will develop specific plans.

o We are attempting to schedule a meeting with the Minnesota affiliates of the Coalition Against Regressive Taxation (CART).

cc: Bill Cannell
Paula Duhaime
Bill Orzechowski
Susan Stuntz