

THE TOBACCO INSTITUTE


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SAMUEL D. CHILCOTE, JR.
President

May 29, 1986

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Executive Committee

FROM: Samuel D. Chilcote, Jr. 

RE: Proposed GSA Smoking Prohibition Regulation

The General Services Administration call last week for comment on its proposed smoking ban in many federal buildings will, of course, result in a lot of comments from anti-smoking organizations. To counter the expected support for a ban, The Institute is making every effort to ensure vocal opposition and leadership from Members of Congress, agency representatives, and federal employee unions.

Since federal employee unions first alerted Institute staff to the proposed General Services Administration regulations in federal buildings in mid-February, staff and organized labor have been working closely to ensure a coordinated response.

When GSA first raised the proposal with organized labor in February, the unions said they were opposed to it. That continues to be the case. The unions involved -- all members of the AFL-CIO's Public Employee Department (PED) -- include many which submitted letters in opposition to S. 1440 (the Stevens bill), as well as the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), the largest federal employee union.

Staff is working closely with AFGE and the PED to ensure the unions get all the ammunition they need to defeat the GSA proposal. Materials include:

- . An economic impact study, to be conducted under the auspices of the PED. A study has been completed for TI; consultants already have shared its results with the federal Office of Management and Budget, as well as with the federal unions.
- . Union requests for air quality studies in federal buildings located in the districts of key Congressmen throughout the nation. AFGE will ask its OSHA staff to recommend appropriate buildings for study in regions identified by TI federal and field staff.

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- . A series of Freedom of Information requests to obtain copies of previous air quality studies conducted for the GSA. AFGE will file these requests, based on information provided by TI staff.
- . An opinion survey of federal employees' attitudes toward smoking restrictions. We have offered to work with the federal unions to update a survey completed in 1985, on federal employee attitudes toward the Stevens bill.
- . A possible request for an extension of the 60-day comment period, pending completion of the abovementioned air quality studies and receipt of any materials requested under FOI.

These materials will be used by Institute staff and federal union spokesmen in meetings with key members of Congress. Where appropriate, field staff may be asked to contact key federal personnel in regions of the country having large federal employee workforces.

The National Treasury Employees' Union, which has publicly endorsed the GSA proposal, remains a problem. However, we understand that NTEU may be willing to listen to our arguments; TI staff and consultants will make every effort to persuade NTEU to back off on its support.

The Institute will, of course, file its own comments by the July 21 deadline and monitor other comments as they are received. In addition, the public relations staff is considering opportunities to communicate via direct mail with federal employees and others affected by the proposed regulation.

We will report to you regularly on these activities and others as they arise.

/mb
Attachment
cc: TI Senior Staff

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