

THE TOBACCO INSTITUTE


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SAMUEL D. CHILCOTE, JR.
President

February 22, 1991

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Members of the Executive Committee

FROM: Samuel D. Chilcote, Jr. 

The AFL-CIO Executive Council on February 19 passed a formal statement on "Employee Privacy." A copy of the position paper is enclosed for your information. This resolution specifically references the issue of smokers' rights in the broader context of protecting workers' rights with respect to off-the-job behavior, and puts the AFL-CIO on record as supporting smokers' rights within that broader context.

Protecting smokers' rights through a broad employee privacy statement is consistent with AFL-CIO past practice of addressing issues of importance to the unions in the tobacco industry. Previous examples include statements citing labor opposition to cigarette excise taxes in the context of fair tax policy and labor opposition to legislated or employer-mandated smoking restrictions in the context of collective bargaining rights and indoor air quality.

This statement is an internal AFL-CIO policy action. As such, it is extremely important that any use or transmittal of the statement within organized labor be done by labor organizations to other labor organizations. The unions and representatives of the Tobacco Industry Labor Management Committee are prepared to undertake this activity, as appropriate, to representatives of individual unions and to state and local labor bodies.

Another statement released the same day reaffirms the AFL-CIO's unanimity on national health care reform, including its "determination to achieve universal access, significant cost containment, quality care and progressive financing." A copy of that statement also is enclosed for your information.

Enclosures

cc: State Activities Policy Committee
Communications Committee
TI Senior Staff

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