

THE TOBACCO INSTITUTE

1875 I STREET, NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON, DC 20006
202/457-4800 • 800/898-4493

SAMUEL D. CHILCOTE, JR.
President

Sam:
My compliments to
Carol Hrycaj and other
TI staffers for a
job(s) well done.
This is important
work! Reports

June 30, 1994

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Members of the Executive Committee
FROM: Samuel D. Chilcote, Jr. *Sam*

This memorandum will bring you up to date on our labor and agriculture allies' outreach efforts underway at this crucial stage of the health care debate.

Robert Jones
cc C. Hrycaj

Fourteen Black, female members of the Bakery, Confectionery & Tobacco Workers International Union (BC&T) came to Capitol Hill this week to remind key Members of Congress that a tobacco excise increase will have a severe, negative impact on workers. Because of the demographic makeup of the industry, women and minorities will be significantly affected by industry layoffs. BC&T plant workers focused on members of the Women's and Black caucuses most receptive to labor's anti-tobacco tax messages.

A. Tisch
6/30/94

The congressional reaction, chronicled by the women tobacco workers, was generally one of gratitude for constituent, grassroots support on this difficult issue and newfound awareness of the diverse makeup of the industry work force. Indicative of the impact of this effort was the reaction of Senator Wendell Ford of Kentucky.

Senator Ford was so moved by the visits that he requested each of the 14 women to write a personal, handwritten letter to each of the six women senators describing the importance of the industry jobs to them, their families and their communities. This was accomplished and the letters were delivered to the appropriate offices. Senator Ford was to discuss the issue personally with each of the senators.

In addition, Representative Eva Clayton (D-NC) sponsored a luncheon for the workers June 29. Rep. Clayton encouraged attendance at the luncheon by some of her House colleagues.

Meanwhile, our allies within the agricultural community remain active on the tax issue in the Senate and in the House as

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appropriate. During last week's Bright Belt Warehouse Association meeting, for example, my staff briefed 250 key leaders on the tax situation, noting the importance of immediate calls and letters to Southeastern Senators. Many tobacco agricultural leaders have asked their Senators to contact the Democratic and Republican Senate leadership on this tax matter.

In addition, the Tobacco Growers Information Committee (TGIC) alerted its 20-plus "Tobacco Ambassadors" throughout the Southeast. These important tobacco leaders are also making contacts, as are leaders of the National Tobacco Council. Indeed, the entire tobacco agricultural network has been alerted and asked to assist as appropriate. In addition, TGIC has written to thank more than 30 key southern Democratic House members for their leadership against increased excises.

Finally, the Federation of Southern Cooperatives (FSC) distributed press releases in key tobacco states urging lawmakers to find "a fairer means for meeting the health care needs of the nation." The FSC stressed that an excise tax increase will not hurt "a faceless industry," but would destroy many family farms. FSC membership is comprised of Black family farmers.

I will keep you apprised of related matters of interest.

SDC:cah

cc: The Members of the Management Committee
TI Senior Staff

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