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ZCZC MA 01 KENSINGTON, MD 8/5/86
PMS THE HONORABLE CLAUDE PEPPER
US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

BT

ON BEHALF OF THE 140,000 MEMBERS OF THE BC&T, I ASK THAT YOU OPPOSE IN THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE AND ON THE HOUSE FLOOR ANY EFFORT TO RAISE THE CIGARETTE EXCISE TAX OR TO MAKE SUCH AN INCREASE IN ORDER.

THE MAJORITY OF CIGARETTE CONSUMERS ARE MIDDLE AND LOW INCOME WORKING PEOPLE. UNDER THE GUISE OF STRIKING A BLOW AGAINST A "VICE," AN INCREASE IN THE CIGARETTE EXCISE TAX IS IN REALITY AN ATTEMPT TO REDUCE THE FEDERAL DEFICIT BY IMPOSING A REGRESSIVE TAX ON THE BACKS OF WORKING PEOPLE, FURTHER SHIFTING THE BURDEN AWAY FROM THE WEALTHY AND CORPORATIONS. THIS CONTRADICTS THE ESSENTIAL THRUST OF TAX REFORM.

AN EXCISE TAX WILL IMMEDIATELY AFFECT OUR MEMBERS' JOBS WHILE HAVING LITTLE LONG TERM EFFECT ON CORPORATE PROFITS. THE SOCIAL BENEFITS CLAIMED FOR THE TAX WILL BE OUTWEIGHED BY THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF A REGRESSIVE TAX AND INCREASED UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG TOBACCO WORKERS.

AGAIN I URGE YOU TO OPPOSE RAISING REGRESSIVE EXCISE TAXES.

JOHN DECONCINI
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT
BAKERY, CONFECTIONERY AND TOBACCO WORKERS
INTERNATIONAL UNION, AFL-CIO/CLC

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PMS THE HONORABLE JOE MOAKLEY
US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

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PMS THE HONORABLE BUTLER DERRICK
US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

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PMS THE HONORABLE ANTHONY BEILENSON
US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

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PMS THE HONORABLE MARTIN FROST
US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

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PMS THE HONORABLE DAVID E. BONIOR
US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

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PMS THE HONORABLE TONY HALL
US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

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PMS THE HONORABLE ALAN WHEAT
US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

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PMS THE HONORABLE SALA BURTON
US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

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