

NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST CRIME AND TOBACCO CONTRABAND

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ADVISORY PANEL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF CONVENIENCE STORES

AMERICAN WHOLESALE
MARKETERS ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL-AMERICAN
WHOLESALE GROCERS'
ASSOCIATION

March 1, 1996

Dear Legislator:

On behalf of our respective members, we have conducted a thorough analysis of the proposed 25-cents-per-tax tax increase on cigarettes in Massachusetts. That analysis is contained in the attached, "*Impact of Massachusetts Cigarette Tax.*"

It is our belief that, if adopted, this tax would spur large-scale cross-border sales, and, perhaps more significantly, lead to the development of organized smuggling distribution networks as we have seen through well-documented investigations in Michigan and elsewhere.

We urge you to read the attached documentation and other studies we can provide you. Should you have any questions, we will be pleased to provide expert testimony by criminologists, or refer you to law enforcement officials our colleagues have worked with across the country, including the BATF, U.S. Customs, as well as state investigators and revenue departments in various states.

As you debate the proposed tax increase, we urge you to give thorough consideration to the points raised in this analysis.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*New England Convenience
Store Association*

*Massachusetts
Food Council*

*New England Wholesale
Marketers Association*