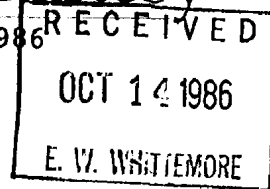


# Committee for Common Courtesy

October 7, 1986



Mr. Edward W. Whittemore  
Chairman of the Board  
American Brands, Inc.  
245 Park Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10167

Dear Mr. Whittemore:

As you may know, there is a bill pending before the City Council which would ban or restrict smoking in many areas of New York City, including sports arenas, convention halls, theatres, restaurants, and places of employment. If passed, it would be the strictest no smoking law in the country, with fines up to \$1000 for violators.

According to this proposed law, any employee will have the right to designate his or her work area as a nonsmoking area. Employers would be required to post a written policy on smoking that "acknowledges and protects the right of any employee to smoke-free air."

Employers would no longer have the right to set a smoking policy based on the specific needs of their businesses; they would have to take steps such as improving ventilation or moving workers away from smoking areas.

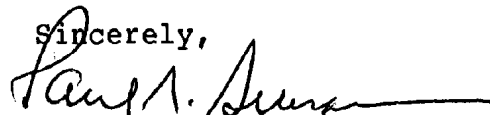
According to a recent study, the proposed law will cost New York City businesses and taxpayers an estimated \$265.6 million to comply with the law.

I have put together a Committee for Common Courtesy, an independent group of concerned New York City business, union and civic leaders, including smokers and non-smokers, which believes that this proposed law would impose a burdensome and unworkable regulatory system to deal with matters that are much more effectively addressed by good will, common courtesy and the free operation of the marketplace.

I have attached a list of its members as well as some recent editorials in major New York City newspapers which voice opposition to this bill.

It is vital that we obtain the support of our city's business community in order to defeat this bill. Please help us by returning the attached acknowledgement and become a member of our Committee.

Sincerely,

  
Paul R. Screvane  
Chairman