

**Tobacco Action Network**



1875 I Street, Northwest Washington, DC 20006 800/424-9876

*FALL  
TAN - 1989*

January 1989

Dear TAN Activist:

As we enter the New Year, I want to thank each of you for your support during 1988, especially your help in voluntarily flooding the Department of Transportation, Congress and the airlines with literally thousands of letters of protest against the temporary two-hour smoking ban on airline flights. Our figures indicate that you generated well in excess of 30,000 letters!

As you know, the temporary ban will remain in force through April 1990, so we will be asking for your help on this issue throughout the year to ensure that the ban "sunset" as scheduled ... I hope you share our belief that this temporary ban should end in 1990 ... it's unfair and unnecessary.

#### **TAXES/ADVERTISING BANS TO THE FRONT**

The airline smoking ban is not our only concern as the new 101st Congress convenes and the Bush Administration takes the reins of the Executive Branch. It seems that everybody is talking about tax increases. And, as usual, many so-called experts have suggested whopping increases in tobacco excise taxes. We will be counting heavily on your efforts to stop increases in these unfair and regressive taxes.

No doubt we will also see further attacks on the First Amendment in the form of bills to ban or further restrict all advertising of tobacco products. Such moves -- which are nothing but a blatant form of censorship -- could have devastating effects.

#### **HEADLINES FOR ANTI-TOBACCO CRUSADERS**

Attention to tobacco issues will be heightened this month (and throughout the year) by two events -- the 25th anniversary of the government's first surgeon general's report on tobacco, and an anti-tobacco conference in Houston (January 27-28), which will be led by anti-tobacco members of Congress who will advocate even more unfair burdens on this industry.

Apart from these and other national concerns, there is little doubt that anti-tobacco leaders will continue their crusades in the states to unfairly tax tobacco, to push for unreasonable smoking restrictions, and to work for further bans on legitimate forms of tobacco advertising and promotion.

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**1988 WAS A GOOD YEAR -- 1989 CAN BE ONE, TOO**

The challenges are tough, but not insurmountable. During 1988, little significant anti-tobacco legislation was enacted at the federal level, even though the 1987-passed airline smoking ban was put into effect. Pipe tobacco tax rates were raised, but not nearly as much as the anti-smokers would have liked.

In the states, the record was just as good. Of the 27 states considering increased tobacco excise taxes, only two actually increased their rates, Iowa and Rhode Island. However, through the initiative process, California citizens voted to increase their tax by 25 cents per pack.

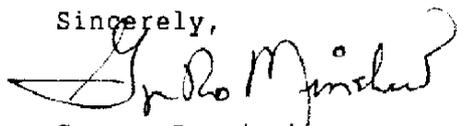
On the smoking restriction front, none of the dozens of states considering workplace smoking restrictions passed such laws, even though a few states did tinker with existing statutes. Locally we didn't do quite as well, but we still managed to defeat about half of the restriction proposals we fought, and we helped weaken virtually all before they were eventually adopted.

Clearly, we can continue to be successful -- but only with your help. I hope we can count on each of you as the various issues come under review.

I hope you agree with me when I say **ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!** The anti-tobacco forces have gone too far for too long, and must not be allowed to succeed in trampling even further the rights of smokers and those who derive a living from tobacco. Please rededicate your efforts to the fight in 1989. We can succeed with your determined support.

With kind regards and best wishes in the New Year, I am

Sincerely,



George R. Minshew  
National TAN Director

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