



October 18, 1983

TO: E. A. Horrigan, Jr.

FROM: Gene Ainsworth

SUBJECT: Local Ordinances - Smoking In The Workplace

The issue of local government regulation of smoking in the workplace continues to gain momentum. The outcome of the November 8 referendum to repeal San Francisco's ordinance will undoubtedly have an impact on pending local workplace smoking proposals both nationwide and, especially in California.

If the San Francisco ordinance is repealed by the voters, it will discourage, but not stop, similar efforts by other cities. If, however, the ordinance passes, there will be a rush to pass similar legislation in many areas of the nation -- the Los Angeles City Council has delayed consideration of a workplace smoking proposal until December; Sacramento, which passed on October 11, a ban on smoking in workplaces owned by the city, has indicated that it will broaden the ordinance to include private places of employment; and there are workplace proposals in Seattle and Chicago.

The tobacco industry must be prepared to deal with the workplace smoking issue whatever the result of the San Francisco referendum. In this regard there are two actions which the industry can take:

1. Launch the Smoking In The Workplace Proposition as soon as possible after November 8.
2. Develop a Model Ordinance on the issue which can be used as a "stop-gap" measure, if the situation in any particular area gets out of control -- especially if the San Francisco Ordinance is not repealed on November 8. The Model Ordinance would be along the lines of a "Sense of the Board Resolution" that employers should develop policies on smoking in the workplace which take into account both smokers and non-smokers, but would not have non-smokers' rights prevail over those of smokers.

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I believe it is essential that both these actions be considered, on a priority basis, by the appropriate TI committees.

Gene

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GA/jld

cc: G. H. Long
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