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THOMAS A. CONAMUE  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

## **LEGISLATIVE ALERT!**

1021 027-0070

February 17, 1994

The Honorable John Dingell  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Health and  
the Environment  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2415 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to express the concerns of the AFL-CIO related to H.R. 3434, the Smoke-Free Environment Act of 1993.

We recognize the many difficult issues raised by the regulation of exposure to environmental tobacco smoke in public and private facilities. The AFL-CIO and its affiliated unions have been confronting many of these issues as they relate to exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) in the workplace and regulation of indoor air contaminants by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Given OSHA's scarce resources to protect workers from a wide range of serious safety and health hazards that OSHA is uniquely situated to address, we have real concerns about making OSHA the federal agency with primary responsibility for enforcing smoking regulations in virtually all public and private buildings. At the same time, we also have concerns about giving another federal agency jurisdiction over an issue which is integrally linked with other occupational exposure issues in the workplace, as H.R. 3434 would do with respect to ETS.

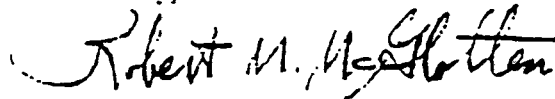
It is for that reason that the AFL-CIO has advocated for OSHA to issue comprehensive indoor air quality regulations that include provisions on limiting exposure to environmental tobacco smoke. It is our view that the difficult issues related to the regulation of ETS and the enforcement of these rules can best be fully explored and addressed in the context of a full

public rulemaking. It is our understanding that OSHA plans to take action imminently on a rulemaking concerning indoor air quality and ETS.

It is for these reasons that we cannot support H.R. 3434 and its approach to regulating environmental tobacco smoke in the workplace. A much better approach to regulating all indoor air contaminants in the workplace is set forth in the attached letter from the AFL-CIO and a number of its affiliated unions to OSHA Administrator Joseph Dear.

We appreciate your consideration of our views on this matter.

Sincerely,



Robert M. McGlotten, Director  
DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATION

cc: Members of the Committee on Energy and Commerce

Attachment