

# THE TOBACCO INSTITUTE

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M. HURST MARSHALL  
Vice President

## MEMORANDUM

February 25, 1986

TO: Regional Vice Presidents  
Regional Directors

FROM: William P. Buckley *WPK*  
M. Hurst Marshall *HM*

SUBJECT: AFL-CIO Statement on Smoking in the Workplace

The attached AFL-CIO resolution is not a silver bullet that guarantees automatic and vocal labor opposition to all workplace smoking legislation. It will not transform unions that have been lukewarm towards tobacco into supporters. If used properly, however, it will be of great benefit in many instances.

The resolution, adopted by the AFL-CIO executive committee February 19 in Bal Harbour, FL, places organized labor firmly against legislated workplace smoking restrictions, and against discrimination against smokers.

Because dissention from just one major union would have tabled the resolution, it gives our supporters in the labor movement the ability to say the statement represents the overwhelming consensus of the AFL-CIO.

State federations of labor and central labor bodies usually are very reluctant to oppose the national AFL-CIO on issues such as these. Similarly, this resolution co-opts the national headquarters of most unions from supporting the anti-smoking position. Labor-supported groups (senior citizen and citizen action organizations) also could be influenced by this statement, yet it must be used judiciously.

Field staff and legislative counsel who are perceived as pro-business should work through labor/liberal contacts to communicate this statement to state chapters and local unions. Where the statement is included in testimony, that testimony should be from a labor union or from a person who is perceived to be representing labor's concerns.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

WPB:MHM:WNW/da

Attachment

cc: Susan M. Stuntz  
State Activities Staff

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