

October 19, 2005

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We are writing to urge you to submit the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control to the Senate for ratification. The United States has already taken a significant step forward by signing this important public health treaty in May 2003, and we hope that it will continue to demonstrate commitment to the public health of its citizens through ratification.

As you are aware, if the United States does not ratify the treaty by November 8th it will not be a part of the critical Conference of the Parties in February 2006. This meeting will set the rules for how the treaty will be observed and determine the details of its implementation. It would be a step backward for the United States not to have a seat at this important meeting, which will impact public health in countries around the world – including the United States

Ratification of the treaty is critical to ensuring that the United States remains a leader in protecting public health around the world. As a major source of the world's tobacco products, the United States has a special obligation to provide global leadership in reducing the alarming rates of death and disease caused by tobacco use.

Tobacco use kills nearly five million people worldwide every year. That number is projected to increase to 10 million a year by 2020, with 70 percent of those deaths in developing countries. This is a horrible tragedy that the FCTC can help to reduce. We urge the United States Senate to ratify the treaty by November 8th so that our country can have a seat at the table at this most important tobacco control meeting.

Mr. President, please submit the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control to the United States Senate for its immediate consideration and approval. We look forward to your prompt action on this critical international public health issue.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Family Physicians
American Association for Respiratory Care
American Cancer Society
American College of Cardiology
American College of Chest Physicians
American College of Occupational & Environmental Medicine

American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Association
American Dental Hygienists' Association
American for Nonsmokers' Rights
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
American Medical Association
American Medical Student Association
American Public Health Association
American Society of Addiction Medicine
Black Network in Children's Emotional Health (BNICEH)
Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids
Center for Communications, Health and the Environment (CECHE)
Center for International Environmental Law
Chinese Progressive Association
Essential Action
Friends of the Earth United States
Global Exchange
Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America
National Association of Local Boards of Health
Oncology Nursing Society
Partnership for Prevention
Public Citizen's Health Research Group
Roswell Park Cancer Institute
San Francisco Tobacco Free Coalition
Society for Public Health Education
Society for Research on Nicotine & Tobacco (SRNT)
Solano County Tobacco Education Consulting (TEC)
The Praxis Project
Tobacco Control Law & Policy Consulting
University of Hawaii Community Partnership for Health and Fresh Air