



July 20, 2015

The Honorable Michael Froman
 United States Trade Representative
 600 17th Street N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Froman:

As you prepare to complete negotiations for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement we write to urge that you ensure that the final agreement provide the protections necessary to enable countries that are party to the agreement to protect the public health of their citizens from the death and disease caused by tobacco products.

As we have highlighted in previous letters, as well as stakeholder presentations and discussions, it is essential that the TPP acknowledges the unique harms tobacco products cause, and includes provisions to insure that countries that seek to protect their citizens from the harms of tobacco by adopting public health measures do not face the threat of litigation from the tobacco industry. You have repeatedly noted that the TPP will be a 21st Century trade agreement, and a model for future trade agreements. We strongly urge that you work to achieve this important public health outcome in the TPP as you continue these negotiations, despite renewed and continuing pressure from the tobacco industry and their unabashed champions on the Hill and business community.

Tobacco products are the only consumer products that kill when used exactly as intended. Globally, tobacco kills more than 6 million people each year and without effective tobacco control policies to reduce consumption, one billion people will die from using tobacco products this century. For these reasons, tobacco products are the only consumer product covered by a UN treaty--the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

Countries around the globe are implementing tobacco control policies from graphic warning labels to plain packaging and the tobacco industry has responded, using investor-state dispute settlement provisions in trade and investment treaties to both challenge countries' policies and threaten others. The industry actions have had a significant chilling effect intimidating other countries from moving forward with policies to prevent or reduce tobacco consumption. The tobacco industry's behavior is a real and direct threat to public health.

Protecting the right of TPP countries to implement non-discriminatory tobacco control policies to protect the health of their citizens free of direct industry challenge is critical.

Sincerely,

Academy of General Dentistry
Action on Smoking & Health
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Respiratory Care
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Chest Physicians
American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
American Public Health Association
American Society of Addiction Medicine
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Thoracic Society
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer
Lung Cancer Alliance
National Association of County and City Health Officials
Oncology Nursing Society
Partnership for Prevention
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Prevention Institute
Smoking Cessation Leadership Center
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions
Society for Public Health Education
Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco
Society of Thoracic Surgeons
Trust for America's Health