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Providence, RI 02906
April 16, 1990

Dear Ms. Penard,

Hooway for you! I couldn't resist the temptation to write a letter of support after reading Bella English's column regarding your efforts to eliminate tobacco use. I almost wish I was an American Brands stockholder so I could get on the bandwagon.

My mother died of lung cancer at the age of 69 in 1983. She was a chain smoker which not only affected her physically but also caused her considerable grief because she experienced some ostracism due to the cloud of smoke which surrounded her. Her death was protracted, painful and ugly. Whenever I see attractive young women smoking I want to tell them about the large tumor which protruded from my mother's forehead after the cancer spread to her brain. Or about how horrified and grief-stricken her teenaged granddaughters were when "Mimi" thought they were nurses one evening when they visited her in the hospital. Only these

of us who have "lived" through the agonies of watching cancer destroy a loved one can understand the traumas that continue on and on many years after the stricken person dies. Each and every time I see a person smoking, see a filter lying on the street or catch a whiff of smoke, I experience a very negative physiological or psychological reaction.

Lo and behold! Three years ago my sister, a smoker, was found to have a malignancy in the lining of her lung. So our family got to "do it all over again." I watched her suffer the pain of radiation, saw her body shrink away, and tried to help her through the frustrations of memory loss as her cancer spread to her brain. To describe her death is beyond me still, except to tell you it was ugly. Two teenage children must go on without their mother. And I say, what a rip!

Well enough said by me. But if I can lend support to your cause in any way, please let me know. It is my cause, too. Bless you for leading the way.

Sincerely,

Linda Gjording