

Your Letter Can Make a Difference!

Following are some points that you can use in opposing any change in the regulatory status of tobacco products. Feel free to put any of these points in your own words and use them in your letter.

- Economic livelihoods could be at stake! The jobs of hundreds of thousands of people nationwide depend on the manufacture and sale of tobacco products. There is no reason to place these jobs in jeopardy, simply to satisfy the anti-smoking agenda of one unelected bureaucrat.

- There is no need to change the regulatory status of tobacco. Tobacco products are already among the most heavily regulated products on the market. The U.S. Congress, several federal agencies and administrative offices in each state already have jurisdiction over the production, manufacture, marketing and sale of tobacco products.

- The FDA needs to focus its energies on more important issues, like testing and approving new drug treatments and ensuring the safety of the nation's food supply. As it is, the FDA is already unable to meet its current responsibilities in these areas. To extend the FDA's jurisdiction to include another, huge industry would be foolish.

- Most Americans simply do not share Commissioner Kessler's attitude about smoking. In fact, a recent nationwide poll found that almost 70 percent of Americans believe that their communities already have strict controls on tobacco.

- Commissioner Kessler's proposal to regulate cigarettes is at best prohibitionist, and would set a dangerous precedent for future over-regulation of other products of which he may disapprove.

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