

# THE COUNCIL FOR TOBACCO RESEARCH-U.S.A., INC.

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SUPPORTING BIOMEDICAL INVESTIGATION

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April 29, 1998

JAMES F. GLENN, M.D.  
CHAIRMAN AND PRESIDENT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Senator Lauch Faircloth  
317 Hart Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Lauch:

It has been nearly 20 years since I treated you in my capacity as Chief of Urology at Duke University Medical Center. However, I remember our many pleasant conversations, and I hope that you remember that I offered to organize the "Docs for Lauch" if you ever again ran for office. Unfortunately, I had left Duke for other honest work before you made that decision. I send my congratulations and further expression of admiration for the way you have carried out your responsibilities.

I write to you now with regard to potential tobacco legislation and how it may impact on The Council for Tobacco Research-U.S.A., Inc.. As you see from the letterhead, I am Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer of that organization. The Council (CTR) was inaugurated under another name some 44 years ago by the tobacco industry, seeking to underwrite research into questions of smoking and health and also to serve as a public information source. Early in our history, the public information aspect of our function was delegated to The Tobacco Institute, while CTR continues to support basic biomedical research.

Earlier research was directed toward epidemiological and animal studies. The statistical relationship of tobacco use and specific health problems was early recognized, but unfortunately the study of animal exposure to cigarette smoke was very unrewarding. In accord with the 1981 Report of the Surgeon General, our research was being directed toward better understanding of basic disease processes, and that emphasis continues today. We are heavily involved in research in molecular and cellular biology, immunology, genetics, and related basic biomedical investigation.

Under the guidance of our distinguished Scientific Advisory Board, we have awarded research grants in virtually every medical research institution in the United States and many abroad. In total, we have funded approximately \$300 million dollars of outstanding research, a very significant contribution considering constraints upon the NIH budget and limitations in resources of other private funding agencies. At no time has the

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CTR directed the research of these investigators, but rather has encouraged them to publish results of investigation whether favorable or unfavorable to the tobacco industry. I should point out that research supported by CTR has been cited more than 350 times in the Reports of the Surgeons General, reflecting the identifiable risks associated with tobacco use.

Now, various agreements and proposed legislation seem to call for dissolution of The Council for Tobacco Research. Such a step would simply penalize the biomedical research community, depriving scientific investigation of yet another source of funding. I would be happy to provide copies of typical letters from our grantees, deploring the potential demise of CTR as a funding source. CTR continues to be a positive and significant contributor to the biomedical research enterprise in this country, and I would urge that you consider this important aspect of any legislation which would impact negatively on our continuing activity.

I know that you are fully aware of the significant economic impact which such legislation may have, not only upon the tobacco companies themselves, but also on all those whose livelihood is directly or indirectly related to the tobacco industry. Further, I am confident that you are well aware of the loss of tax revenue to the federal government and the states should the manufacturers be forced into bankruptcy or relocation outside of the United States. However, I want to be sure that you are also cognizant of the impact that the pending legislation may have upon biomedical research activity, particularly here in the United States if the tobacco industry is for any reason unable to continue funding the research program which we foster.

I realize that this is a difficult time for the Congress, but a rational understanding of the consequences of any tobacco legislation must include recognition of the important role that industry funding has played in the biomedical research effort in this country.

With appreciation for your attention, I am,

Sincerely,



James F. Glenn, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.R.C.S.  
Chairman, President, CEO

JFG:mm