

THE TOBACCO INSTITUTE

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SAMUEL D. CHILCOTE, JR.
President

February 13, 1990

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Members of the Executive Committee

FROM: Samuel D. Chilcote, Jr. 

The Department of Transportation late Monday afternoon sent to Congress its report on aircraft cabin air quality. Copies of the lengthy contractor's report, and the DoT's summary remarks, are enclosed. I also have enclosed a copy of the Department's Federal Register notice calling for comment on its proposals to implement the Congressionally mandated ban on smoking on flights of six hours or less.

Although the DoT in its summary of the cabin air quality study findings stops short of making recommendations, it does note that the contractors believe that "a total ban on smoking was estimated to provide the greatest benefit at least cost." It also notes that "this has essentially been realized for domestic flights with passage" of legislation banning smoking on flights of six hours or less.

Also enclosed is The Institute's response to the study, which was available within 30 minutes of the report's release. The TI statement notes that ETS exposure levels found by the DoT contractors are similar to levels reported in a number of earlier research reports. It also takes issue with risk assessment estimates, calling them scientifically insupportable.

Although we have not yet received any inquiries from media representatives, the situation may change later in the week, as we understand that several Members may be preparing statements on the report's release.

The DoT, as anticipated, forwarded the report quietly and made no recommendation for additional regulation. However, the contractor's report did propose additional mitigation strategies, including a ban on international flights. Institute staff has asked the scientific consultants to review and prepare critiques of the contractor's report; the scientists and their critiques will be available for in-depth briefings of Congressional and regulatory staffs.

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The Institute will submit comments on the DoT plan to implement the six-hour smoking ban. Please let me know if you have any thoughts on this.

SDC:cev

Enclosures

cc: Communications Committee
TI Senior Staff

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