

DRAFT III 2/8 EXECUTE ... FEBEXEC ON SDRIVE

THANK YOU, BILL. ON BEHALF OF THE T-I STAFF, I WELCOME JIM MORGAN. JIM, WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU AND BILL IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

THREE MONTHS AGO TODAY, THE VOTERS SENT A MESSAGE: WE WANT MORE EFFICIENT ... AND LESS ... GOVERNMENT IN OUR DAILY LIVES. THAT BROUGHT A WHOLE NEW GROUP TO CAPITOL HILL.

SINCE THE ELECTIONS, THE TOBACCO INSTITUTE HAS UNDERTAKEN A PROGRAM TO GET OUR VERSION OF THAT MESSAGE TO THE NEW MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ... TO MAKE SURE THEY KNOW MORE ABOUT OUR INDUSTRY THAN JUST WHAT THEY READ IN THE NEWSPAPERS.

TO DATE, WE HAVE BRIEFED TWO-THIRDS OF THE 99 NEW MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE ON TOBACCO ISSUES. OUR LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE IS HELPING RE-INFORCE OUR MESSAGES AND WIDEN OUR CONTACTS.

[[[[[ PAUSE ]]]]

NOW IT IS TIME TO CONSIDER OUR AGENDA. IN DECEMBER I SAID WE HAD TWO CHOICES. WE COULD ... ONE ... RELY ON THE NEW CONGRESS TO STOP SERIOUS ANTI-TOBACCO BILLS; OR WE COULD ... TWO ... USE THIS OPENING TO IMPROVE THE CLIMATE FOR FUTURE YEARS ... WE COULD USE THIS TIME TO TRY AND GET AHEAD. THERE WAS UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT ON LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES.

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