



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

James S. Gilmore, III
Governor

April 16, 1999

Mr. J. Phil Carlton
108 North 3rd Street
Post Office Box 67
Pinebluffs, North Carolina 27864

Dear Mr. Carlton:

Thank you for your March 15th letter concerning potential federal legislation impacting the tobacco companies.

Senator Durbin's attempt to change existing statutes to allow for redress of alleged past wrongs is very troubling. It was fortunate that his amendment to help facilitate potential Department of Justice lawsuits against the tobacco companies for recovery of Medicare and other health care expenses was not offered on the floor of the Senate during consideration of the emergency spending bill.

Virginia's Liaison Office in Washington is closely tracking the federal legislation impacting the Master Settlement Agreement and the trust fund. I want to assure you that I remain committed to protecting the livelihoods of Virginia tobacco farmers and workers as we move ahead with the implementation of the tobacco settlement and the trust fund.

Thank you again for your letter and for bringing this legislation to my attention.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature of James S. Gilmore, III in dark ink.

James S. Gilmore, III
Governor of Virginia

JSGIII/sls

c: The Honorable Barry E. DuVal
Secretary of Commerce and Trade

Mr. Michael T. McSherry, Director, Virginia Liaison Office

Mr. J. Carlton Courter, III, Commissioner
Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

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