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U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

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SECOND-HAND SMOKE AT ISSUE WEDNESDAY

Elders, Browner, others to testify

WASHINGTON -- The Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Regulation will hear from U.S. Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders, EPA Administrator Carol Browner and others about the health risks of second-hand smoke at a hearing on Wednesday, Chairman Joe Lieberman, D-Connecticut, announced today.

Wednesday's hearing begins at 9:30 a.m. in Room 216 of the Hart Senate Office Building. A witness list is attached.

The hearing will focus on the Environmental Protection Agency's December 1992 report on second-hand smoke, and the controversy that has surrounded it. The report found that second-hand smoke:

- is a human lung carcinogen;
- is responsible for approximately 3,000 lung cancer deaths annually in the U.S.;
- contains more than 4,000 substances-- including more than 40 known or suspected to cause cancer.

EPA's Science Advisory Board has consistently ranked pollution in indoor air-- where Americans spend 90 percent of their time-- among the top four environmental risks to the public's health.

EPA, the Defense Department, the U.S. Postal Service and other government agencies have banned or restricted smoking in the workplace. A bill introduced by Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., seeks to sharply limit smoking in government buildings; the House of Representatives passed a similar law last November.

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