

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Washington, D.C. - The following statement was issued today by Philip Morris Incorporated; R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company; Brown and Williamson Tobacco Corporation; and Lorillard Tobacco Company:

On February 27, the major cigarette companies will post on the Internet the first installment of the documents their chief executive officers offered to make public in recent Congressional testimony. In a process unprecedented in corporate history, these documents are the first of tens of millions of pages to be opened for public access in coming weeks.

The various company document websites will be accessible through www.tobaccoresolution.com. This initial installment will include the vast majority of those selected by the Minnesota Attorney General for use in his lawsuit. They cover a wide range of smoking and health issues covered in scientific and marketing research reports, memoranda, executive correspondence, handwritten notes and other materials. They will not include materials other than written documents, such as videotapes and oversized documents.

Each website will offer an index to aid users in their searches of the documents. Additional documents will be posted to the websites in installments as quickly as possible.

The industry also has asked the Minnesota Court to grant public access to the Minnesota document depository. Upon the court's approval of the industry's February 8 formal request, the companies will make the documents at the depository available within seven to 14 days.

The publicly available materials will not include documents containing highly sensitive trade secret information and certain personnel and third party information. Nor will they include the documents for which attorney client privilege or work product doctrine claims have been asserted.

The industry is releasing these documents to underscore its commitment to the principles set forth in the proposed national resolution negotiated last spring with the state attorneys general, representatives of the health community and plaintiffs' attorneys. Under the proposed resolution agreement reached June 20, an industry-funded document repository would be established to allow public viewing of industry documents.

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