



May 6, 2021

Taxes Conference Committee

RE: HF991 (Omnibus Tax Bill)

Dear Conference Committee Members:

On behalf of the American Lung Association, the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through education, advocacy and research, this letter is in support of new, ongoing investments in tobacco prevention.

Your important work to take steps forward to reverse the youth tobacco epidemic and address tobacco related disparities is appreciated. Specifically, both chambers have proposed dedicating existing cigarette tax revenue to tobacco prevention and treatment. With the House bill including \$15 million in ongoing funding and the Senate bill including \$5 million in one-time revenues. Additionally, we support closing tax loopholes on e-cigarette devices.

Last year alone, Minnesota collected nearly \$760 million in tobacco revenue from tobacco taxes and tobacco settlement fees. In March 2021, Minnesota also received an additional \$81 million in settlement back payments and it's estimated those companies will pay at least \$10 million a year going forward. Dedicating cigarette tax revenues to prevention and treatment is a common-sense way to address youth tobacco use.

As the Conference committee meets to discuss and finalize the omnibus tax bill, the Lung Association urges you to protect health and Minnesota's youth by including ongoing investments in tobacco prevention and treatment efforts as included in the House proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat McKone".

Pat McKone, Senior Director
Public Policy and Advocacy

About the American Lung Association

The American Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through education, advocacy and research. The work of the American Lung Association is focused on four strategic imperatives: to defeat lung cancer; to champion clean air for all; to improve the quality of life for those with lung disease and their families; and to create a tobacco-free future. For more information about the American Lung Association, a holder of the coveted 4-star rating from Charity Navigator and a Gold-Level GuideStar Member, or to support the work it does, call 1-800-LUNGUSA (1-800-586-4872) or visit: [Lung.org](https://www.lung.org).

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1-800-LUNGUSA (1-800-586-4872) [Lung.org](https://www.lung.org)