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February 5, 2009

TO: Chairmen Ryan L. Yamane and John M. Mizuno and Members of the
Committees on Health and Human Services

FROM: Cigar Association of America, Inc.
(William L. Goo)

RE: ¹⁵²⁷~~HB1537~~ - Relating to Tobacco

Hearing Date: Friday, February 6, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

My name is William L. Goo. I represent the Cigar Association of America, Inc. (CAA).

CAA respectfully opposes passage of **HB1537** for the reasons set forth below:

1. The ad valorem tax results in an automatic increase in revenue with inflation.
2. As indicated in the bill, increasing the amount of the tax does not automatically translate into multiples for revenue.
3. While we do not argue about the use of the monies which might be generated, requiring only adult cigar smokers to fund it is unfair, as there is no clear correlation between cigar smoking and cancer and more specifically cervical and breast cancer for which a portion of any monies from any increase would go.

Thank you for considering this testimony. It is respectfully requested that the Committee hold this measure.