

OPENING STATEMENT OF REP. THOMAS J. BLILEY, JR.  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT  
APRIL 28, 1994

THANK YOU MR. CHAIRMAN. TODAY, WE WILL HEAR IN GREATER DETAIL ABOUT AN ISSUE THAT WAS RAISED AT THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S LAST TWO TOBACCO HEARINGS -- RESEARCH ON NICOTINE UNDERTAKEN BY A FORMER PHILIP MORRIS RESEARCH SCIENTIST IN THE EARLY 80s. AS WITH THE OTHER TOBACCO-RELATED ISSUES THAT THIS Subcommittee HAS RECENTLY CONSIDERED, THIS ISSUE ALREADY HAS BEEN AIRED IN THE PRESS. IT IS THEREFORE CRITICALLY IMPORTANT THAT, ONCE AGAIN, OUR DELIBERATIONS ATTEMPT TO SEPARATE FACT FROM FICTION AND THAT WE OPT FOR GOOD POLICY, RATHER THAN GOOD HEADLINES.

I ALSO HOPE THAT WE APPROACH THE PROCEEDINGS TODAY FROM THE BENEFIT OF A WISDOM THAT CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED THROUGH EXPERIENCE. IN THIS CASE, THE EXPERIENCE IS VERY RECENT BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN DOWN THIS ROAD BEFORE. JUST A MONTH AGO, ALLEGATIONS WERE FLYING IN THE MEDIA ABOUT NICOTINE "SPIKING". IN RESPONSE, TOP EXECUTIVES FROM THE MAJOR TOBACCO COMPANIES CAME BEFORE US VOLUNTARILY AND UNDER OATH TO PUT THESE UNFOUNDED CLAIMS TO REST AND TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT. HOPEFULLY, THE PROCESS WILL ALLOW FOR A SIMILAR FAIR HEARING FOR ALL CONCERNED REGARDING THIS ISSUE.

IN CONCLUSION, I AM HERE TO LISTEN. BUT, BECAUSE WE HAVE THE BENEFIT OF HEARING ONLY ONE SIDE OF THE ISSUE HERE TODAY, ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS SURELY WILL ARISE. THEREFORE, THIS HEARING SHOULD BE VIEWED AS BUT PART OF A LONGER PROCESS THAT ALLOWS BOTH SIDES OF THE ISSUE TO BE PROPERLY AIRED.

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