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McCAIN, HOLLINGS, GORTON & BREAUX INTRODUCE BILL ON GLOBAL TOBACCO SETTLEMENT

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Senate Commerce Committee Chairman John McCain (R-AZ), Ranking Member Fritz Hollings (D-SC) and Senators Slade Gorton (R-WA) and John Breaux (D-LA) introduced a bill today codifying the global tobacco settlement reached between 40 state attorneys general and tobacco companies earlier this year. The bill also contains key elements of the Long-term Economic Assistance for Farmers Act (LEAF), introduced by Senator Ford (D-KY) that addresses fairness to tobacco farmers.

"The introduction of the legislative version of the settlement today will enable Congress to take a closer look and should move us toward our national tobacco goals, particularly the goal of reducing smoking among children," said McCain.

With the Administration not offering Congress a detailed analysis of the agreement, the bill should serve to focus the analysis by each committee of jurisdiction. On Wednesday, McCain invited six other Committee Chairman with jurisdiction over the issue -- Judiciary, Finance, Labor, Indian Affairs and Agriculture -- to co-sponsor the bill.

The Commerce Committee's area of focus includes product liability, the restrictions on tobacco sales and marketing, and the new labeling requirements. It has held three hearings since July.

(Overview of Tobacco Settlement and LEAF bill Attached)

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