



May 10, 2013

Mr. Douglas Bell
Chair, Trade Policy Staff Committee
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Mr. Bell,

In regards to the public comment period for the *Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership*, the National African American Tobacco Prevention Network (NAATPN) would like to submit our position. NAATPN is a private non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that was chartered “to serve as a national organization dedicated to facilitating the development and implementation of comprehensive and community competent tobacco control programs to benefit communities and people of African descent”. NAATPN promotes community competent approaches to tobacco control to address the multiple factors that contribute to tobacco use among African Americans and to counter the predatory marketing tactics of the tobacco industry.

While on the surface the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Agreement seems like a wonderful opportunity to spur economic growth between the United States and Europe, we must be ever mindful of the exceptional role tobacco plays in international trade and take concrete steps to avoid having this agreement become a forum for tobacco companies to affect established tobacco policy.

Tobacco is quite unique among many of the commodities that would be covered under the proposed TransAtlantic Trade & Investment Agreement. First, there is evidence cigarettes have been used as a money laundering commodity for years, with several countries joining to sue tobacco companies for supporting this tactic long ago (see: <http://www.nytimes.com/2000/11/07/us/europeans-suing-big-tobacco-in-us.html?src=pm>) . Second, tobacco companies continue to demonstrate creative, strategic, and strong opposition to public health policies. This industry is more than capable of cultivating relationships with foreign agricultural, economics or trade ministries to counter years of policy aimed at protecting the American publics’ health from tobacco use. Finally, there are active public health policies that govern tobacco use/sale in many of these countries which could be compromised by this agreement.

Tobacco is not just a trade commodity, for many reasons it is exceptional. In order to protect the health of the participating countries, this agreement should be examined with particular care for any opportunities it might unwittingly provide for the tobacco industry to influence established

and desired health policies. If I can be of further assistance, or should you have any questions for me, feel free to contact me.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Delmonte Jefferson".

Delmonte Jefferson, Executive Director
National African American Tobacco Prevention Network