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## PACT Act Passed and Signed Into Federal Law

The Prevent All Cigarette Trafficking (PACT) Act of 2009 was signed into law by President Obama in early April. The PACT Act was approved nearly unanimously by both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. The PACT Act will ensure that all federal, state, and local tobacco taxes are collected on cigarettes and smokeless tobacco products which are sold on the internet and through other mail-order venues.

The PACT Act requires internet and mail-order tobacco vendors to do the following:

- Pay all applicable taxes and affix tax stamps before delivering tobacco products to a consumer; and
- Comply with local laws as is the tobacco seller were in the same state as the consumer; and
- Register with any state in which they sell products and make tax collection reports to the applicable authorities; and
- Check the IDs of consumers

at purchase AND delivery to ensure that all customers are legally old enough to purchase tobacco.

The Act also subjects illegal internet sales to strict new penalties and provides new enforcement tools to state and federal officials.

Other key provisions of the PACT Act include:

- Makes tobacco products “non-mailable” items—unlike private carriers, the U.S. Postal service lacks the ability to perform the age and ID checks required by the PACT Act; and
- Establishes procedures to enable law-abiding internet sellers to deliver their products through private carriers; and
- Fully respects Tribal sovereignty, clearly states that the Act does not expand or reduce these rights.

The PACT Act will promote public health goals by blocking access to under-priced and untaxed tobacco products and closing off one

avenue sometimes used by youth to purchase tobacco products. The PACT Act goes into effect at the end of June 2010. ♦



The PACT Act makes tobacco products “non-mailable” matter.

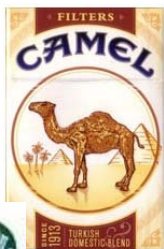
**Sources:**

Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids

<http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0361.pdf> (4/19/2010)

GovTrack.us

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=s111-1147&tab=summary> (4/19/2010)



## Tobacco Retailers See “Dual-Users” as Growing Opportunity

Convenience store retailers met in March to discuss tobacco marketing at the *Convenience Store News* annual Tobacco Best Practices Roundtable. Attendees were feeling generally upbeat about the “other tobacco product” (OTP) category. OTP includes smokeless tobacco, cigars, roll-your-own, etc. One attendee stated that the “dual user,” or someone who smokes cigarettes and uses OTP, is a growing opportunity for the tobacco retail industry. According to Joe Teller, senior category manager for Swedish Match North America: “Many more people

today buying moist snuff are smokers looking for tobacco satisfaction when they can’t light up. To a bigger and bigger extent, smokers are also OTP customers. That will get bigger and overlap... OTP will become more important as retailers realize that.” ♦

Sources: Convenience Store News (4/19/2010)

[http://www.csnews.com/csn/cat\\_management/tobacco/article\\_display.jsp\\_vnu\\_content\\_id=1004080883](http://www.csnews.com/csn/cat_management/tobacco/article_display.jsp_vnu_content_id=1004080883)

# Ramsey Tobacco Coalition



## Community Group Takes a Stand Against the Tobacco Industry!

The Aurora St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation has done just that— taken a stand against taking tobacco money. The Aurora St. Anthony Board adopted a new policy stating that we will not accept any funding or donations from the tobacco industry at its April 13th meeting.

The policy to decline tobacco industry sponsorships and donations adopted by the Aurora St. Anthony board was introduced through an initiative of the Vision in Living Life “Change is Possible” (V.I.L.L.) youth group and the Ramsey Tobacco Coalition, a partnership of community organizations and individuals of which Aurora St. Anthony is a member. The Tobacco-Free Funding initiative is the “No Thanks” campaign, by which nonprofits say “no thanks” to tobacco industry involvement in the community.

“I am very proud of the youth in our community” said Damone Presley, Program Coordinator of V.I.L.L. “They are indentifying problems in the community, finding solutions and taking action.”

Why say “No Thanks?” Any philanthropic activities undertaken by the tobacco industry are dependent on the sale and use of deadly tobacco products; this is contrary both to the mission of Aurora St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation and to the social and economic health of the community. In adopting this policy, the Aurora St. Anthony board recognizes the burden of tobacco on our community. Every organization has a responsibility to take steps to diminish the presence of tobacco in our community.

““The tobacco industry targets low income neighborhoods and people of color at a much higher rate than wealthy, white, suburban communities,” stated Nieta Presley, Executive Director of Aurora St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation.

For more information of Aurora St. Anthony Neighborhood Development go to: [www.aurorastanthy.org/index.html](http://www.aurorastanthy.org/index.html) or call 651-222-0399. For more information about adopting a tobacco-free funding policy contact Bernadette Chlebeck of the Ramsey Tobacco Coalition at 651-646-3005 or [bc@ansrmn.org](mailto:bc@ansrmn.org). ♦

## Jóvenes de Salud Say “NO” to Tobacco Industry Donations to “Cinco de Mayo”

Earlier this month, the Riverview Economic Development Association (REDA) announced that it will not accept tobacco industry funding of its Cinco de Mayo festivities. Thanks to encouragement from the Jóvenes de Salud students from H.E.A.T. (Hispanic Energy All the Time) at Harding High School in Ramsey County, A.L.M.A.S. (Anglos Latinos Motivados A Superarse/Anglos Latinos Motivated to Succeed) at Henry Sibley High School in Dakota County, REDA was able to take a bold stance and turn down a \$9,000 sponsorship from the tobacco industry.

As soon as they learned that the tobacco industry had proposed a sponsorship to REDA that included distributing tobacco promotional coupons at the Cinco de Mayo Fiesta, the Jóvenes de Salud students swung into action. The youth led a petition drive gathering over 1,000 signatures in only two days. Thirteen students met with Brian Gioielli, Marketing Manager of REDA to present the petitions and explain the importance of keeping the festival positive and family-friendly and pledging their support in finding alternate funding, which they have done. The group has already secured \$5,500 in donations from UCare

Minnesota and sold \$500 worth of Cinco de Mayo buttons. The students will continue to fundraise throughout the year in order to raise \$9,000— the amount that was offered by the tobacco industry.

In late April, RTC staff member Betsy Brock met with members of the Harding High School Jóvenes de Salud group to discuss their success. The Jóvenes were clearly feeling empowered. George Amparan said of the experience: “It made us feel like we had a voice.” Sergio Marquina said that the experience taught him “not to give up... to go and get what I want.” Rodrigo Mota added: “Latinos can make a difference, people just need to give us a chance.”

Making a difference is definitely on the agenda with this group— they are fired up and ready to make change on a variety of issues. First up? They will work with REDA to get a written tobacco-free funding policy on the books. After that, these youth are ready to apply their advocacy skills to other issues that impact the Latino community. Esmerelda Gonzalez said of the group: “We are here to help our community.” Sara Gonzalez said proudly: “We are Latinos who are choosing to make a difference.”

Gustavo Vega stated: “My favorite quote is one from Gandhi- ‘be the change you want to see in the world.’ That’s what we did. We

were the change we wanted to see in Cinco.”

Great work Jóvenes de Salud—the Ramsey Tobacco Coalition is very proud of you! We know that you will continue to “be the change.”



Members of the Jóvenes de Salud group at Harding High School in St. Paul— From left to right: Rodrigo Mota, Rudy Dominguez, Luis Zamora, Sara Gonzalez, Gustavo Vega, Sergio Marquina, Esmerelda Gonzalez, Viki Martinez, Mirella Orozco, and RTC staff Betsy Brock. Front row: Brenda Monterroso and George Amparan.