



**NORTH CAROLINA  
FARM BUREAU FEDERATION, INC.**

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Congressman G.K. Butterfield  
2305 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Butterfield:

We request your assistance in responding to the European Commission's revisions to the Tobacco Products Directive (TPD) that are being considered by the European Parliament and Council.

North Carolina is the largest exporter of U.S. flue-cured tobacco to the European Union. The proposed revisions would result in a significant loss to our farms. In fact, estimates indicate annual sales of tobacco from U.S. tobacco farms could decline by over \$37 million and North Carolina would bear the largest share of this impact. Please keep in mind that the loss goes far beyond farms; many small businesses in rural North Carolina depend on this economic activity.

Beyond our obvious concerns, we believe that these revisions are adverse policy and set a dangerous precedent. Allowing the EU to impose these types of restrictions violates international trade obligations. More importantly, it could open the door to future restrictions on other products.

Your office has been contacted and asked to sign a delegation letter addressing this important issue. We ask that you consider signing the letter and supporting efforts to defeat the proposed revisions. We are seeking unanimous participation from North Carolina's delegation in this important effort.

As always, thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

  
Larry Wooden  
President  
North Carolina Farm Bureau

Sincerely,

  
Brent Leggett  
President  
Tobacco Growers Association of N.C.

*Farm Bureau and Agriculture...  
We keep North Carolina growing!*