

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

December 4, 2017

Dear Director Mulvaney,

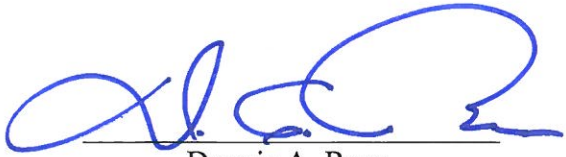
As Members of Congress who represent all sectors of the hand rolled premium cigar industry, we wish to share our support for recent efforts made by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). On July 28, 2017, FDA offered temporary and partial relief by extending regulatory deadlines that relate to the submission of tobacco product review applications. We applaud Commissioner Gottlieb's decision to solicit additional comments and scientific data regarding premium cigars. However, we remain gravely concerned that regulatory overreach from the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act continues to burden the manufacturers of premium cigars with unwarranted pre-market applications, constituent testing, user fees, warning label administration, and other destructive measures that were never warranted economically or scientifically.

When Congress passed the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act in 2009, its stated intent was to prevent youth access to tobacco products and the negative health effects of smoking addiction. These are worthy goals and we can support policies that achieve them. However, premium cigars are consumed in moderation and by adult consumers. Congressional intent was underscored this month when the House of Representatives passed H.R. 3354, the Make America Secure and Prosperous Appropriations Act of 2018, which included language that would exempt premium cigars from regulation by restricting FDA from using any funds to enforce the rule.

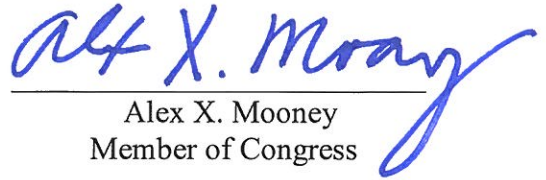
As the Office of Management and Budget and President Trump consider onerous and overreaching regulations that are in need of repeal, we strongly urge you to consider an immediate extension of current regulatory deadlines that are burdening premium cigars and an ultimate exclusion for premium cigars from FDA oversight. FDA's deeming of premium cigars would impose extremely high economic costs that would lead to serious unintended consequences for the premium cigar industry and the jobs and businesses it represents.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and are happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Dennis A. Ross
Member of Congress



Alex X. Mooney
Member of Congress



Tom Cole
Member of Congress



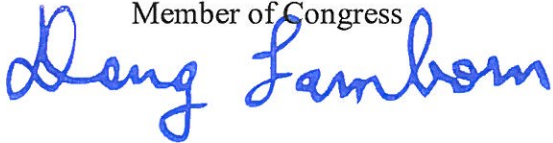
Mark Walker
Member of Congress



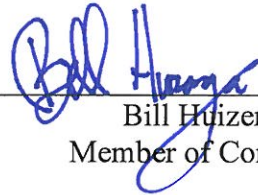
Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



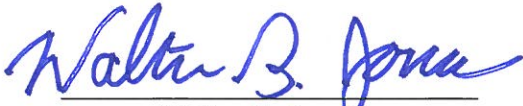
Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress



Charles W. Dent
Member of Congress



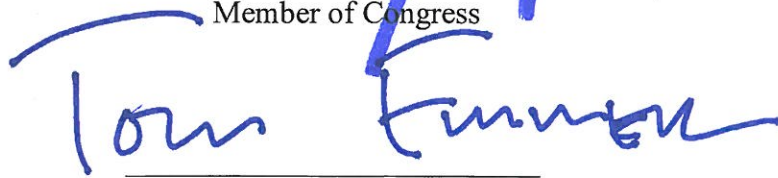
Steven Palazzo
Member of Congress



Don Young
Member of Congress



Lou Barletta
Member of Congress



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



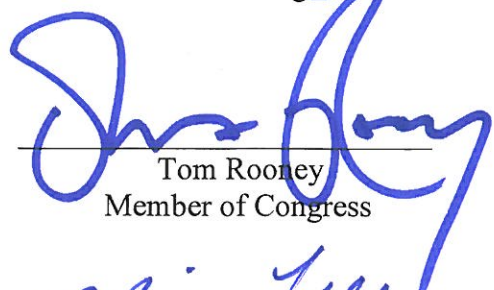
Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress



George Holding
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Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



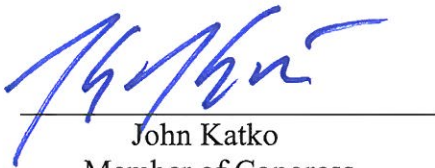
Tom Rooney
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Andy Harris, M.D.
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Mike Kelly
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John Katko
Member of Congress



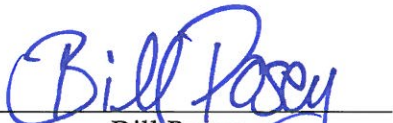
Dave Brat
Member of Congress



Carlos Curbelo
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Chris Collins
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress



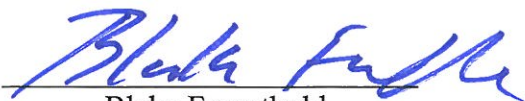
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress



Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



Blake Farenthold
Member of Congress