

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Supervisor Bob Buster

SUBMITTAL DATE: July 25, 2006

SUBJECT: Board Position on Tobacco Tax Act of 2006

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board consider whether to take a position on the Act, which will be placed before state voters this November as Prop. 86.

BACKGROUND: The Cancer Society has requested that the Board endorse this measure, which raises the tax on tobacco. The \$2 billion annual revenues produced will be devoted to children's health insurance, emergency room care, disease prevention and medical research smoking reduction programs. The funding also expands nursing training, helping to reduce the extreme shortage of nurses.

The measure directly benefits Riverside County Regional Medical Center, particularly with regard to reducing presently unreimbursed emergency room care and alleviating the local nursing shortage.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Buster".

BOB BUSTER, Supervisor
1st District

Attached: Resolution No. 2006-311

Prev.Agn.ref

Dist.

AGENDA NO.

3.61

2 **RESOLUTION NO. 2006-311**
3 **A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE TOBACCO TAX ACT OF 2006**

4 WHEREAS, the Surgeon General has determined that tobacco use is the single greatest
5 cause of preventable illness and premature death in America today; and

6 WHEREAS, the Tobacco Tax Act of 2006 is a state initiative that, if approved by voters in
7 November 2006, would raise the state's tobacco tax by \$2.60 a pack and according to state
8 projections would prevent 700,000 children under age 17 from becoming smokers in
9 adulthood; cut smoking prevalence among high-school and middle-school students by 42.8
10 percent; and induce more than a half-million smokers in California to quit; and

11 WHEREAS, the Tobacco Tax Act would produce more than \$2 billion a year for children's
12 health insurance, emergency-room care, disease-prevention and medical research programs
13 that will reduce smoking; and

14 WHEREAS, the initiative would make millions of dollars available across California to help
15 train nurses and lessen the severe shortage of nurses that exists in Riverside County and
16 statewide; and

17 WHEREAS, 4.5 million Californians smoke and nearly 75,000 try their first cigarette each
18 year, significantly burdening our economy, hospitals and health-care systems and costing an
19 estimated \$510 million each year in Riverside County in medical costs alone, not counting
20 worker absenteeism and lost productivity; and

21 WHEREAS, the Tobacco Tax Act would fund outreach programs to enroll *currently*
22 eligible children into the Medi-Cal and the Healthy Families programs; and

23 WHEREAS, the Tobacco Tax Act would provide money to help more than 700
24 community-based clinics statewide provide primary health services to uninsured and
25 underinsured children and adults, reducing overuse of local emergency rooms; and

1 WHEREAS, the Tobacco Tax Act will provide needed funds for emergency rooms and
2 critical-care services and help keep community emergency rooms open; and,

3 WHEREAS, the Tobacco Tax Act will increase sales-tax revenues to local governments
4 by tens of millions of dollars annually; now, therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, that the Riverside County Board of Supervisors does hereby support the
6 Tobacco Tax Act of 2006, which will reduce smoking – especially among children – and fund
7 critical health-care priorities; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Coalition for
9 a Healthy California and to Riverside County’s legislative representatives in Sacramento, and
10 to the speaker of the California Assembly, Senate president pro tempore, and to the
11 governor.

12
13 ROLL CALL:

14 Ayes:

15 Noes:

16 Absent
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27