

Press Release

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Meehan Calls on Bush to Exclude Tobacco Products from Central American Free Trade Agreement

Washington - Congressman Marty Meehan (D-MA) today sent a letter to President Bush asking for the exclusion of tobacco products from the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). Meehan, co-chair of the Congressional Task Force on Tobacco and Health, wrote the letter with fellow co-chair Representative Todd Platts (R-PA). The letter expresses Meehan and Platts' reservations about supporting a CAFTA agreement that includes tobacco.

Meehan said: "We should make every effort to support our years of tobacco control efforts. As currently drafted, foreign investment protections under CAFTA may allow manufacturers to challenge national and sub-national tobacco laws in courts like the WTO. I urge the President to exclude tobacco as we move forward with CAFTA negotiations."

For over a decade Congressman Marty Meehan has been a leader in protecting the public health of our nation - and particularly our children - by working to curtail the needless suffering associated with smoking and serving as one of the leading Congressional critics of the powerful tobacco industry. In 1994, he wrote the prosecution memo that served as the basis for the national tobacco settlement. More recently, Rep. Meehan has been at the forefront of legislative efforts to prevent the sale of tobacco to kids over the internet, to ban the sale of candy-flavored cigarettes, and to bring the tobacco industry under FDA regulation.