

We believe that Commissioner Kessler's allegations regarding the use of ammonia in the cigarette manufacturing process, are scientifically unsound, lack merit, and do not support the FDA's illegal assertion of jurisdiction over the cigarette industry. Contrary to the assertions in the FDA report, Philip Morris does not use ammonia in the cigarette manufacturing process to increase the amount of nicotine inhaled by the smoker or to "affect the rate of absorption of nicotine into the bloodstream of the smoker."

We intend to submit comments to the Agency on the issue of ammonia and the many other erroneous allegations contained in the FDA's August 11, 1995 Federal Register notice, but we restate our firm belief that the FDA's assertion of jurisdiction over our products and the entire rulemaking process exceed the Agency's legal authority.

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