IPCPR FACT SHEET

International Premium Cigar & Pipe Retailers
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"Traditional Cigar Manufacturing and Small Business Jobs Preservation Act of 2017"

In 2009, "The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act" was signed into law with the intent of curbing youth access to tobacco products and preventing health effects of addiction to tobacco products. Premium cigars fit neither area, yet these products are now under undue regulation from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Center for Tobacco Products (CTP).

On May 10, 2016, the FDA issued a final rule to regulate premium cigars. These regulations, referred to as the "Deeming Rule" went into effect on August 8th, 2016. Restrictions our industry faces as a result of the deeming rule include: requiring a lengthy and costly FDA approval on seasonal and historical blends/lines; a ban on sampling and merchandise, tools used by manufacturers to promote new products at in-store visits; labeling any retailer who blends and repackages pipe tobacco as a manufacturer, placing even further compliance requirements on them; and mandating the installation of oversized warning labels, ruining ornate artisan boxes that many consider collectable art pieces.

This bill protects the premium cigar retailer and its consumers, which account for tens of thousands of jobs in the United States. We urge you to co-sponsor this legislation and help to preserve a freedom enjoyed by adults for centuries. Premium cigars are not accessible or desirable to America's youth. Cigars are a celebratory product appreciated by informed adults, with the typical cigar enthusiast having one or two per week.

Although there are over 13.9 BILLION cigars sold annually, this bill was carefully written to only protect true, premium cigars of which there are about 275-300 MILLION sold annually. The legislation acutely defines a premium cigar as wrapped in whole 100% leaf tobacco, at least 6 pounds per 1,000 count, with no filters or tips. Additional language in the bill incorporates hand-made elements that define traditional premium cigars that are made in historic factories by skilled workers.

During the 114th Congress, an identical bill was introduced by Reps. Posey and Castor. During that time, it garnered 170 co-sponsors. With your help, we'll raise greater awareness during the 115th.

IPCPR Position

IPCPR supports this legislation and urges Members of Congress to co-sponsor and vote in favor of this legislation. This bill will help preserve an artisanal industry and tens of thousands of jobs in the United States. Premium cigars should not be regulated by the FDA.

For more information, please contact **Daniel Trope**, IPCPR Director of Federal Legislative Affairs, by emailing **Daniel@ipcpr.org** or calling **913-485-2754** (mobile). To co-sponsor, please contact Patrick Deitz with Representative Bill Posey.