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To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Henry Blackburn. I have been a cardiovascular disease researcher for more than forty years, specializing in the epidemiology and prevention of these diseases, at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. As a physician I have been involved with public health issues including effects of lifestyle, diet, and smoking.

I directed the Division of Epidemiology and the Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene for eighteen years and retired as the Mayo Chair of Public Health at the end of 1996. I served on the Advisory Board of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute from 1989 to 1992, on the Diet and Health Committee of the National Academy of Sciences, chaired both the American Heart Association and the International Society of Cardiology Scientific Councils on Epidemiology and Prevention, and serve now on the Diet Advisory Committee of the FDA. My hands-on experience includes direction or project officer responsibilities for major population studies and clinical trials, including the Seven Countries Study, the Coronary Drug Project, the Multiple Risk Factor Intervention Trial, the Minnesota Heart Survey, and the Minnesota Heart Health Program.

Several years ago, I was contacted by Richard Scruggs to explore my working with his firm and Ness-Motley in preparation for the Attorney Generals' cases for Mississippi and Florida, as consultant for cardiovascular disease epidemiology. I have subsequently been involved with the Texas and Oklahoma cases. I accepted to join the firms in these cases because of my scientific interest in and public health views of the role of smoking and health. I found the Ness-Motley and Scruggs firms professional, skilled and prepared to undertake the litigation.

I have been particularly impressed by the orderly, level-headed, and fair approach that these collaborating firms bring to their cases. They are not emotionally firebrand or zealous in their attitudes. Rather, they are knowledgeable and thoroughgoing in approach. I therefore felt I could work productively with them. It also seemed to me that their skills and approach would most likely bring about the desired long-term public health effects of reducing sales and consumption of cigarettes.

Sincerely yours,

Henry Blackburn (ny)

Henry Blackburn, M.D.

Mayo Professor of Public Health (emeritus)