

**Statement of Support for Senate Bill 2063,  
To Appropriate Full Funding for North Dakota's  
"Measure 3 Best Practices Tobacco Prevention & Cessation Program"**

**February 13, 2009**

Tobacco-Free North Dakota (TFND) supports the prompt approval of Senate Bill 2063 in a manner that will faithfully and expeditiously implement the will of the People as expressed by their recent adoption of Initiated Measure # 3. TFND is an all-volunteer, statewide group of individuals and organizations dedicated to curbing the tremendous health, social, and economic toll of tobacco addiction in North Dakota.

By a strong majority, North Dakota voters last November allocated the "Strategic Contribution Fund" portion of North Dakota's decade-old Global Tobacco Settlement payments to: Implementing a comprehensive, science-based program that will reduce youth smoking, avert future tobacco-caused diseases and deaths, and greatly reduce future taxpayer expenditures for tobacco-caused healthcare delivery. Now it is time for the North Dakota Legislature to appropriate those funds so that this proven program can move forward.

As explicitly directed by this historic vote of the citizens and in order to actually achieve the desired life-saving, cost-saving results, all of the allocated funds must be scrupulously invested only in strategies that have been proven effective and specifically adopted as "Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs" by the nation's leading disease-preventing specialists at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

It is not surprising that in 2008, fully ten years after the Tobacco Settlement was hammered out, North Dakota voters adopted Initiated Measure 3. In statewide polling conducted at the time of the Settlement, more than nine of every ten North Dakotans indicated they wanted Tobacco Settlement dollars used for effective tobacco-prevention work. In fact, nearly seven of every ten survey respondents wanted at least half of the state's entire settlement payments (not just the "Strategic Contribution Fund") spent on tobacco control efforts.

Tobacco-Free North Dakota urges the 61<sup>st</sup> Legislative Assembly to enact legislation to appropriate the money necessary to fully fund a "Best Practices" tobacco control program in the manner that will honor the stated wishes of the people of North Dakota.

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