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NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEES:

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TRANSPORTATION

ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 19, 2010

The Honorable Margaret Hamburg
Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Dear Commissioner Hamburg:

I am writing to express my grave concern about dissolvable tobacco products, such as Camel Orbs, Sticks and Strips, manufactured by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. A study published today in the journal *Pediatrics* indicates that the products can poison and even cause death in young children. Given the serious health risks of these new tobacco products, I urge you to consider removing these products from commerce until their effect on young children and teenagers are better understood.

Manufacturers of these products market dissolvable tobacco as substitutes for cigarettes. Dissolvable tobacco products are made from finely ground tobacco and flavoring agents, such as mint or cinnamon. They can be made into candy-like pellets (Camel Orbs), toothpick size sticks (Camel Sticks), or a film strip that is placed on the tongue (Camel Strips). The products melt in the mouth within three to 30 minutes. As you know, the products are being test marketed in Oregon, Ohio and Indiana.

The Indiana Poison Control Center has estimated that dissolvable tobacco products contain between 60-300 percent of the nicotine found in a single cigarette, and experts estimate that ingesting 10 to 17 Camel Orbs could kill an infant. In addition to the potential for immediate serious adverse health consequences or death, these products also have the potential to hook a new generation of teenagers to tobacco by facilitating the ingestion of nicotine with a delivery device that is identical to candy.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



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