



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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November 15, 2019

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The Honorable Roger Wicker
United States Senate
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Wicker and Sinema:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to advise you of our support for S. 1965, the Combatting Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products Act (CITTPA).

NAPO is a coalition of police associations from across the United States that serves to advance the interests of America's law enforcement officers. Founded in 1978, NAPO now represents more than 1,000 police units and associations and 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers who share a common dedication to fair and effective crime control and law enforcement.

In its 2015 report, *The Global Illicit Trade in Tobacco: A Threat to National Security*, the U.S. State Department notes that cigarette smuggling facilitates and funds more serious crimes such as money laundering and the trafficking of humans, weapons, drugs and counterfeit goods. Illicit tobacco directly supports criminal organizations, drug traffickers and terrorists who pose a direct threat to the security of our communities and our nation.

CITTPA would help the United States combat the illicit tobacco trade and the terrorist networks that rely on its profits. It would give the U.S. Secretary of State the ability to withhold U.S. foreign assistance from countries who are knowingly profiting from the illicit trade in tobacco. It would also allow the President to target individuals found to be engaged in the illicit tobacco trade. Pursuing those who support and profit from illicit trade in tobacco is vital to cracking down on these crimes and defeating the organized crime syndicates and terrorist organizations that threaten the safety of our nation.

We look forward to working with you to pass this important legislation. If we can provide any assistance, please feel free to contact me at (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson
Executive Director