

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Big Tobacco's Amendment 3 Is A Scam

Jefferson City, MO, October 11, 2016 – Whether you're a Democrat, Republican or Independent, there is something for everyone and every group not to like in Amendment 3. Here are the top 5 reasons to "Vote NO on Amendment 3 on November 8th."

1. It's About Big Tobacco's Profits, Not Kids. Big Tobacco's Amendment 3 is a scam. Big Tobacco is funding Amendment 3 (\$6.6 million and counting) because it increases Big Tobacco's cigarette profits and market share by massively and unfairly taxing their competition. It's not about helping kids.

It's like Coke asking Missouri voters to pass a special tax on Pepsi, or McDonalds wanting to tax Burger King. It's just not right.

2. Don't Put Big Tobacco's Scam In Our Constitution. Big Tobacco's Amendment 3 would change our Constitution and enshrine Big Tobacco's secret schemes and deals forever unless changed by a vote of the people. For example:

uFunds can't be used to lobby for any tobacco tax increase or any prohibition or limitation on the sales or use of tobacco products (aka "Gag Order #1").

uFunds can't be used for "tobacco related research of any kind" (aka "Gag Order #2").

uDoes not increase the tax on Big Tobacco's top sellers including cigars, chewing tobacco and pipe tobacco.

uA special 394% tax increase (more than half of the total 747% increase) which applies only to Big Tobacco's competition, helps to settle old scores and automatically increases at least 3% every year forever without a vote of the people.

3. It's A Slush Fund For Greedy Political Insiders With No "Lock Box". Big Tobacco's Amendment 3 creates a commission of 13 unelected and unaccountable bureaucrats who control hundreds of millions of dollars per year. There is no such thing as a "lock box" which guarantees the money will go to early childhood education. Remember the broken funding promises that came with the Lottery and casinos?

Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me.

4. Big Tobacco's Amendment 3 Is Opposed By A Diverse Array of Liberal and Conservative Groups Including:

◦ **Health Care.** American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, American Lung Association and the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids oppose Big Tobacco's Amendment 3 because:

"R.J. Reynolds' current campaign contributions totaling more than \$5 million in support of a tobacco tax proposal are unprecedented. Reynolds, best known for their infamous Joe Camel cartoon, is notorious for its aggressive efforts to lure kids into smoking. Missouri voters shouldn't let the tobacco industry write policies that ultimately keep our state's youth hooked on these deadly products." (Joint Statement, 10/3/16).

◦ **Pro-Life and Pro-Choice.** Concerned Women for America, Missouri Alliance for Freedom and NARAL Pro-Choice Missouri oppose Big Tobacco's Amendment 3 because for the first time ever it puts the terms "abortion" and "abortion services" in the Missouri Constitution.

◦ **Educators.** Missouri National Education Association, Missouri Retired Teachers Association and Missouri Association of Rural Education oppose Big Tobacco's Amendment 3 because for the first time since 1875 it allows unelected and unaccountable bureaucrats to give public tax dollars to private and religious schools.

◦ **Elected Officials.** They don't agree on much, but gubernatorial candidates Chris Koster and Eric Greitens, plus a bipartisan group of 110+ state legislators, all oppose Big Tobacco's Amendment 3.

◦ **Medical Research.** Stowers Institute, Washington University, BioSTL, We Deserve Better, MOBIO and Missouri Cures oppose Big Tobacco's Amendment 3 because it's anti-science in that it restricts promising stem cell medical research, treatment and cures.

5. It's An Outrageous and Unfair 747% Tax Increase! Big Tobacco's terribly flawed Amendment 3 scam, including an outrageous and unfair 747% tax increase that automatically increases every year forever without a vote of the people, does not belong in the Missouri Constitution alongside our cherished rights of religious freedom, freedom of speech and due process of law.

Please urge 10 friends and family to vote "NO" on Amendment 3 on November 8th. For more information, visit www.mpca.org or www.BadForMissouri.com.

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