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May 14, 2003

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commerce and Labor Committee,

My name is Manjit Narwal, and I own G&S Mini Mart & Smoke Shop at 3111 S. Valley View, Suite I-105, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102, which is located in Chairman Goldwater's district. I have a pricing and promotions contract with several tobacco companies, but the company that I have the worst time dealing with is Philip Morris.

My Philip Morris Rep is always complaining about space, display, sign and visibility issues. They have constantly threatened to cancel my contract with them.

Even though they represent the largest percentage of my sales, not all of my customers smoke their brands. Their attitude is that they are the number one company, and that no other company matters in their opinion. I am a small business owner, and I have to be able to cater to 100 percent of my customers with competitive prices.

Philip Morris demands more shelf space than they actually need in my store, which prevents me from being able to advertise all of the brands that I have available. I have to keep some brands underneath my counter because I have to waste so much space on Philip Morris's brands. Unfortunately, I have no other choice but to go along with their demands because they are the number one company. I need their discounts to stay competitive.

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SUBMITTED BY: Man it Narwal

Philip Morris refuses to work with small business owners like me. They are more concerned with out doing their competition than they are about the retailers' bottom line.

I just want to be able to run my store in most efficient manner that I see fit without being dictated to. I want to be able to contract with several companies without their contracts interfering with other companies' contracts.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and other Committee Members for supporting small business owners. I am very appreciative from the bottom of my heart to your committee for helping me on this important manner.

God Biess you all. Thank you