

Office of the Commissioner
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL



ALLAN H. (BUD) SELIG
Commissioner of Baseball

March 31, 2011

By Email and Regular Mail

Mr. Matthew L. Myers
President
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
1400 Eye Street, N.W.; Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: Smokeless tobacco

Dear Mr. Myers:

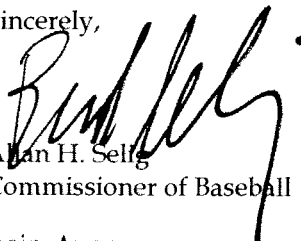
As an initial matter, I would like to apologize for the delay in responding to your letter. Your letter was sent to MLB's New York offices rather than to my offices in Milwaukee, and I only recently received a copy of it.

Without reservation, I and the Major League Clubs share your concerns regarding the dangers of tobacco use. As you know, for the better part of the last two decades, the Minor League Tobacco Policy has banned the use and possession of tobacco products by club personnel - including players - in Minor League ballparks and during travel. Major League Baseball also prohibits the distribution of tobacco products in Major League clubhouses and bars uniformed Club personnel from smoking in view of spectators. Major League Baseball also has worked extensively over the years to raise public awareness of the dangers of smokeless tobacco in collaboration with the National Spit Tobacco Education program. We, of course, also provide education to our players on the dangers of tobacco, and provide cessation programs to those who require it.

I personally believe that smokeless tobacco should be banned at the Major League level, but that is a subject that we are required to bargain over with the Major League Baseball Players Association ("MLBPA"). In 2010, I asked Dr. Ashok Shaha, a head and neck surgery specialist from Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, to address Major League Baseball's Safety and Health Advisory Committee, which is a joint committee comprised of representatives of MLB and the MLBPA (including players), on the dangers of smokeless tobacco. In the current round of bargaining with the MLBPA, MLB will propose restrictions on the use of smokeless tobacco at the Major League level comparable to the restrictions in place at the Minor League level.

In conclusion, Major League Baseball supports the goals of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, and shares your concern regarding use of this harmful product by our nation's youth.

Sincerely,



Allan H. Selig
Commissioner of Baseball

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