

## **6. POLICY POSITION**

### **CONSIDERATION OF THE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROPOSED TOBACCO SETTLEMENT ON FARMERS**

#### **BACKGROUND**

We are concerned that government officials negotiating with tobacco companies have not fully identified the impact of the proposed settlement on tobacco farmers. It is very likely, based on past experience, that the farmer and the consumer will end up paying the bill. In many southern states, if you do away with tobacco, you do away with family farms.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Southern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments suggests and urges our U.S. Senators and Congressmen to make sure the agriculture community, particularly tobacco farmers, are included in any tobacco settlement negotiations. Further, the Southern Legislative Conference recommends tobacco grower association representatives be included in all negotiations.

Finally, the Southern Legislative Conference recommends a study be done of the economic consequences of any settlement proposal on the tobacco farmer.

Adopted by the Southern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments, July 22, 1997, Charleston, West Virginia.

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