

What they're saying about FDA regulation and the tobacco buyout!

"FDA regulation of tobacco is the most important public health bill to come up in quite a few years, and the way to pass it is by twinning it with the tobacco buyout. A de-linking of the two is simply intolerable and will occur over my dead body." – Senator Mike Dewine (R-OH), Washington Post, October 4, 2004

"The FDA provision is absolutely, vitally important – without it, it doesn't happen. This is how we get enough votes. . . . Without it, we don't have a prayer." -- Senator Elizabeth Dole (R-NC), Winston Salem Journal, February 7, 2004

"A great step to protect the public health of all American citizens and the economic health of our tobacco farmers." -- Senator John Warner (R-VA), Richmond Times-Dispatch, July 16, 2004

"It is essential that the federal agency most responsible for protecting public health be empowered to deal with the enormous risks of tobacco." -- Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) and Senator Mike Dewine (R-Ohio) in a letter, Cincinnati Post, July 3, 2004

"Senator John McCain (R-AZ) (will) oppose a buyout without FDA regulation." CQ Today, June 16, 2004

"Senate Finance Chairman Charles Grassley (R-IA) said senators are likely to oppose a bill that includes a buyout and excludes regulation." CQ Today, June 16, 2004

"Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Chairman Gregg, who is a conferee, said he will insist FDA regulation remain a part of the package. 'If the buyout language survives, the FDA language will survive.'" CongressDailyAM, September 28, 2004

"Yet the Senate's No. 2 Republican, Kentucky Sen. Mitch McConnell, welcomed the pairing of the FDA regulation with his buyout plan, calling it 'a marriage of convenience.' McConnell said he didn't think the tobacco buyout proposal had a chance this year until it was attached to the tax bill." Dow Jones Newswires, July 15, 2004

"I personally believe a tobacco buyout makes sense. Pricing, what the market is and all has to be addressed, which we have not yet done, at least on the floor of the United States Senate. So I have been supportive of those efforts to move toward a tobacco buyout. And I also would link it to appropriate FDA oversight, since smoking kills a lot of people in the world and I think it's appropriate that we have some sort of oversight of that." – Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tennessee), briefing transcript, February 10, 2004

"Accepting an FDA bill is a bitter pill for this senator to swallow, [but] that simply is the reality

which we confront today. Simply put, 165,000 of my constituents and 44,000 rural family farms in Kentucky are facing financial ruin due to the continuation of a program that we in Congress have the power to change." – Senator Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky), National Journal, April 3, 2004 (from floor remarks delivered in 2003)