Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

March 1, 2018

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H305 Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman and Ranking Member:

As Members of Congress who represent all sectors of the hand-rolled premium cigar industry, we urge the Committee on Appropriations to include Section 752 of the House-passed Agriculture Appropriations bill (H.R. 3268) in the Omnibus package. The section explicitly defines and exempts premium cigars from burdensome regulations. Specifically, it would restrict the Food and Drug Administration from using any funds to enforce these regulations for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2018, as well as future fiscal years.

We remain concerned that the FDA regulatory overreach from the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act (FSPTCA) continues to burden the manufacturers and retailers of premium cigars. The FSPTCA creates burdens with pre-market applications, constituent testing, user fees, warning label administration, and other destructive measures. These burdens are unnecessary and unwarranted.

Despite engagement from the cigar industry, the FDA failed to provide justification for their deleterious actions toward hand-rolled premium cigar products. Moreover, it failed to adhere to mandated cost benefit analysis standards. Most importantly, the FDA’s overreach would devastate a small cottage industry and destroy thousands of American jobs in the process.

We urge the committee to support these efforts in the upcoming omnibus package and protect the artisan makers and retailers of premium hand-rolled cigars.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our request. We look forward to hearing from you, and thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Bill Posey  
Member of Congress

Dennis A. Ross  
Member of Congress
Roger Williams  
Member of Congress

Walter Jones  
Member of Congress

Mark Walker  
Member of Congress

Brad Wenstrup  
Member of Congress

Darrell Issa  
Member of Congress

Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress

Bart Stupak  
Member of Congress

Tom Marino  
Member of Congress

Randy Weber  
Member of Congress

Andy Barr  
Member of Congress

Lou Barletta  
Member of Congress

Robert W. Goodlatte  
Member of Congress

John Katko  
Member of Congress

Ted Yoho  
Member of Congress

Todd Rokita  
Member of Congress
Gus Bilirakis  
Member of Congress

Francis Rooney  
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress

Sam Graves  
Member of Congress

Blake Farenthold  
Member of Congress

Charlie Crist  
Member of Congress

Don Young  
Member of Congress

Rob Woodall  
Member of Congress

David Rouzer  
Member of Congress

Chris Collins  
Member of Congress