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May 14, 2013

The Honorable Robert Menendez
528 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Menendez,

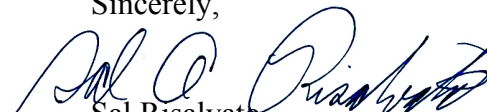
On behalf of the New Jersey Gasoline · C-Store · Automotive Association I would like to express our opposition to the proposed \$0.94, per pack, cigarette tax increase. A tax of this nature has a significant impact on our retail members.

According to a national convenience store trade association, cigarette sales account for 38.2% of all in-store sales nationwide. Additionally, ancillary sales such as the purchase of milk, bread or a newspaper can also be attributed to an individual coming into the store to buy cigarettes and picking up additional goods.

Any increase in the already-high excise tax rates on tobacco products could seriously imperil many retailers ability to operate their businesses and employ others in their communities if consumers shift their purchases to other outlets with lower, if, any, tax burdens.

The State of New Jersey and retailers alike simply cannot afford this type of fiscal policy—*please do not raise the cigarette tax*. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sal Risalvato
Executive Director