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July 17, 1998

### VIA FACSIMILE & U.S. MAIL

Alva E. Smith  
Office of the General Counsel  
Federal Elections Commission  
999 E Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20463

Re: MUR 4766  
United States Tobacco  
Company

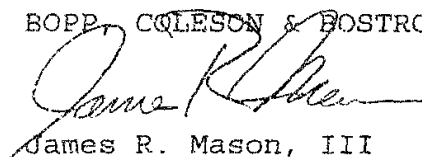
Dear Ms. Smith:

United States Tobacco Company (UST) was notified on July 16, 1998, that the Federal Election Commission had received a complaint, which has been designated as Matter Under Review 4766. As the Commission will be advised by separate correspondence, UST retained Bopp, Coleson & Bostrom on July 17, 1998, to represent it in this matter.

Pursuant to 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(1), UST has the opportunity to demonstrate in writing within 15 days of notification why the Commission should take no further action. Our response would be due on July 31, 1998. We respectfully request an extension of 20 days to respond, which would be August 20, 1998. Because we have just been retained, the additional time is necessary for us to fully apprise ourselves of the facts and the complex legal issues in order to be able to present the Commission with an appropriate response.

Sincerely,

BOPP, COLESON & BOSTROM



James R. Mason, III

cc: Nick Simonides  
Ki P. Hong